

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Is Electricity To Blame For Cancer Among Staff At Alvarado?

*Concern Prompts Test of Power Lines Near School*

*By Denise Minor*

Some teachers at Alvarado Elementary School are questioning whether or not it's a coincidence that a disproportionate number of staff members have suffered from cancer and other serious illnesses during the past decade.

Since 1981, six Alvarado staff members have died of cancer and a half-dozen others have had major surgery (mostly for fibroid cysts), according to the school's ex-principal, Rose Barragan.

But last month at least one possible cause for concern may have been eliminated. In response to the growing attention directed at electromagnetic fields and their effects on human health, an Alvarado teacher arranged for an electrical engineer to measure the electromagnetic fields surrounding the power lines and transmitters near the entrance to the school at 625 Douglass St.

"The fields I measured in September were very low," said engineer Peter Frech, a founder of the San Ramon-based group Citizens Concerned About Electromagnetic Fields, which volunteers its services.

Using a gauss meter, Frech recorded the fields at their strongest point to be well below one milligauss. According to most studies, readings below two milligauss are not considered to be a health hazard.

In instances where people are regularly exposed to levels above two milligauss, there appears to be an increase in the number of cases of leukemia in children and brain tumors in adults, Frech said.



*At the request of an Alvarado teacher, an engineer from the group Citizens Concerned About Electromagnetic Fields measured the "vibes" outside the school last month. Fortunately, his readings were low, and are not considered to be a health hazard. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP*

The teacher who arranged for the test asked not to have her name printed in the press, but said that several parents and other teachers at the school had advocated she go ahead with the independent study. Alvarado Principal Aurora Maramag was also notified of the procedure.

"I was informed that they found no problem with the power lines," said

Maramag, who just took over the reins at Alvarado in August. "I'm very glad that's cleared up. I can be at peace."

Ex-principal Barragan was also relieved to hear that the power lines and transformers had been tested. "I pushed for it while I was principal," said Barragan,

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## Fred Methner, Noe Valley's 'Mr. Clean,' Dies at 84

*By Jeff Kaliss*

A decade ago, I used to get my hair cut at a barber shop on 24th Street. As I waited for the shop to open early on Saturday morning, I'd see this determined old guy in brown slacks, shirt, and fedora, making his way down the street and ripping posted notices off the telephone poles.

Once I started writing for the *Voice*, I learned that the diligent gentleman in the hat was Fred Methner, secretary of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and a fierce enemy of clutter and graffiti.

For close to 30 years, Methner had been carrying on a personal clean-up crusade in Noe Valley. (Methner was so notorious for spoiling the fun of graffiti taggers that one devilish youngster sprayed this message on a Church Street wall: "Don't paint this out, old man.")

Well, our favorite neighborhood watchdog has now departed.

Fred Methner passed away in his sleep on the morning of Sept. 17 at age 84. He had been hospitalized several times for heart problems, and was under the loving care of his friend and neighbor, Carrie Topo, who had relocated him to the comfort of the Sunnyside Rest Home on South Van Ness.

Born in Berlin, Fred emigrated to the States as a teenager. After attending Heald Business College, he became a lithographic artist like his father. At age 60, Fred joined the East & West Club and took a clerical job with the city, which he held until his retirement in 1972. Five years later, his wife, Lottie, died.

In the following years, Fred became something of a local celebrity. He appeared in the print and broadcast media with his cans of paint, eradicating graffiti on walls from Mission High to St. Paul's Church. He received numerous commendations from the city fathers and mothers

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## Noe Valley Plays Part of Ghetto

## St. Paul's Church Gets Chance At Stardom in Disney Movie

*By Kathy Dalle-Molle*

When Susan Lang returns home from vacation later this month, she'll find that a pawn shop has replaced her ceramics store at the corner of Church and 29th streets.

Meanwhile, a few doors away, the employees of Hall Realty will be conducting mortgage and escrow transactions in an "XXX-rated" adult bookstore. And Clara Ortega, proprietor of The Hair Place nearby, will be washing, cutting, and styling hair inside a game arcade.

The movies have discovered Noe Valley. Since Sept. 9, Walt Disney Studios has been sprinkling "pixie dust" along

the block of Church Street between 29th and Valley—transforming the strip of small shops and middle-class dwellings into a down-and-out urban ghetto. The schlocky storefronts will provide the backdrop for the studio's new film, *Sister Act*, starring Whoopi Goldberg.

Across the street, St. Paul's Church also looks a little seedy these days, with the addition of a mock metal fence and stone pillars in front of the building. Scenes from *Sister Act* will be shot both inside and outside the cathedral, as well as in the church's high school kitchen and elementary school yard, which will

*Continued on Page 3*



*Police will close off 29th Street so that St. Paul's elementary school kids can have a place to play (and not get too starstruck) during Whoopi Goldberg's *Sister Act*, the Disney movie being filmed in and around the church this month. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP*



## Noe Valley Won't Have 'Gary the Panhandler' To Kick Around Anymore

Editor:

"Gary the Panhandler" Kappes is not the most pleasant person you're likely to find on 24th Street. I've had a couple of encounters with him and parted with change. I stopped after a merchant friend suggested that the money didn't necessarily go for food.

Nevertheless, I was surprised to hear about his arrest ("Gary the Panhandler" in Police Custody," *Noe Valley Voice*, September 1991). He wasn't accused of robbery or mugging anyone. And I suspect that the reasons expressed in your article were not quite on target. I asked myself, for instance, whether he would have been taken into custody if he had lived in the Tenderloin. Probably not.

He's bad for business. He smells. He's ragged. That I could buy. But those things aren't against the law. A technicality had to be found. I also wonder how many of the solid Noe Valley citizens who went to his probationary hearing wore flowers in their hair during the sixties and complained of police harassment whenever they lit up their pot pipes or dropped some LSD.

Gary ain't no angel, but he might be the first individual to be arrested for spoiling the ambience of a neighborhood.

Yves Barbero  
Dolores Street



Editor:

Thank God that no-good Gary "Drug Addict" Kappes is finally in jail where he belongs. And thanks to Mary McFadden, Patti Wood, Margaret Daley, and all those other courageous neighbors who, in McFadden's words, helped "get rid of him."

I was one of those innocent residents duped by Kappes' wily masquerade. All those times when I thought he was just gently asking for spare change, I realize now that he was actually "aggressively" panhandling me. As McFadden points out, the *Voice* must share the blame. Although it's Gary's fault that he's where he is, it's the *Voice's* fault we all gave him money.

As a recovering alcoholic and drug addict (with an upper-middle-class income) who has personally purchased drugs from and used them with literally dozens of Noe Valley merchants, police officers, attorneys, real estate agents, probation officers, health care workers, and other "normal" residents, I can concur that Gary should not have allowed himself to become addicted to drugs unless he had a roof over his head in which to abuse them.

Imagine how relieved I am to walk down "our" 24th Street now. Instead of seeing "sleazy" panhandlers, I see people the way God intended them—in Guess jeans and leather jackets. Instead of responding to some "eyesore" who has adopted a socially inappropriate strategy

for making it through the night on the streets, I can give my money to the true heroes of our neighborhood: the peddlers of lingerie, jewelry, tobacco, wall ornaments, espresso-makers, vodka, etc.

Imagine how proud it makes me feel.

Bill Yard  
Army Street



Editor:

I do not condone the use of drugs by "Gary the Panhandler," but I found it disturbing when one of the local merchants referred to him as "an eyesore" who had been disturbing her "psyche."

Gary, whatever the problems he has had, is a human being. Certainly the homeless problem will never be solved as long as people look upon the homeless as vermin to be eradicated or removed.

Homelessness is caused by many things—high housing prices, high rents, drug abuse, low wages, and mental illness, among others. The homeless problem won't be solved by pushing homeless people out of one neighborhood and into another.

I was also bothered by how the merchants continue to complain because the *Voice* published a portrait of Gary last year. What is wrong with letting Gary speak his mind? I thought his portrait was one of the most interesting things I have ever read in the *Voice*. It gave me a glimpse of what it's like to be homeless.

Surely the merchants of Noe Valley have enough to do selling their clothing and candy without fretting over Gary or the *Voice*. I think they are being vindictive in this matter, and it is ugly.

Elizabeth Robinson  
Noe Street

Editor:

Well, "Gary the Panhandler" is gone now. Noe Valley can go back to being that Shangri-La of ice cream, candy, and ready-to-wear clothes. Coffee drinkers can talk about their children's alternative schools or their aerobic instructors without fear of encountering that man with the downcast face and morose personality.

Good job, Noe Valley merchants! Good job, Officer Perillo! The homeless problem, the drug problem, and every other "eyesore" that afflicts our society have been driven back to the Mission District or South of Market where they belong—with the poor people.

Victor Cenicerros  
Castro Street

Editor:

While I have been irritated more than once by Gary Kappes, I have to wonder why the police have him in custody and not the dealers selling him drugs. Who is the real "danger" to the community?

Pam Rolph  
Palmetto Avenue  
Pacifica

## LETTERS 29¢

*Editor's Note: The following letter was received in late August, just prior to the publication of our September issue, describing Gary Kappes' arrest for probation violation.*

Editor:

I am a native San Franciscan who has lived all my life in the inner Mission, a somewhat distant land from my good neighbors who live in Noe Valley. It was during a recent visit to my favorite cafe in the Mission, Cafe La Boheme on 24th Street, that I read the May 1991 issue of the *Voice*.

In a letter to the editor in that issue, a Noe Valley resident criticized the *Voice* for spotlighting "Gary the Panhandler" in an April Fool's story.

I want to inform my neighbors in Noe Valley of incidents that I have reported to the police that involve a homeless man who uses the name of "Gary." He is tall, 6'6", thin, and wears a beard.

This man has terrorized your neighbors in the inner Mission for a period of many months. He is a known drug user, and I have reported his drug-dealing activities to the police on numerous occasions. He operated for many weeks on Shotwell Street until a police presence forced him to move into another area of the Mission.

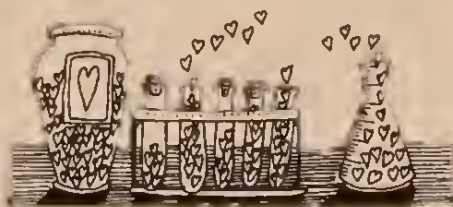
I have seen him many times on 24th Street in the Noe Valley area. Please inform your readers that "Gary's" activities are destroying the lives of poor black and Latino youths in the inner Mission.

Name withheld by request

### A Heartfelt Thanks

Editor:

We'd like to express our sincere thanks to Panos, Spinelli Coffee, Star Magic, Printmasters, the Courtyard Cafe, Cover to Cover, the Chef, Rami's Caffe, What's for Dessert, Another Country Bookstore, the Deli Pub, Coast Federal Savings, and the Fat Chance Belly Dancers for donating prizes and entertaining participants at the June 29 community blood drive held at the Noe Valley Ministry.



The fact that door prizes were awarded to donors (and such wonderful prizes they were) greatly contributed to making this first neighborhood blood drive a very successful event.

The Irwin Memorial Blood Center received 25 units of blood from the drive, and we're grateful to all the Noe Valley residents who turned out. Nowadays, blood banks like Irwin Memorial, which provides blood services to 41 hospitals in Northern California, depend exclusively on volunteer donations.

For those of you unable to participate this summer, the next Noe Valley community blood drive will take place in November, and volunteers are needed to help plan the event. (Call Karen Heather at the Noe Valley Ministry, 282-2317.)

We also need help in dispelling the myth that giving blood is unsafe. Sterile, disposable equipment is used for each donor, and blood is processed in sealed sterile containers. And to assure a safe blood supply, nine separate tests are done on every unit of donated blood.

Hope to see you at the next blood drive.

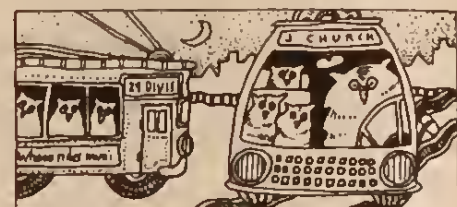
Ruth Rankin, Blood Drive Chairperson  
Karen Heather  
Carolina Neruccio  
Swami Kriyananda  
Theresa Dickinson  
Marlene Kurowski and the staff at  
Irwin Memorial Blood Center

## Owl Service on the 24 May Be Unwise

I read with concern the story in the June 1991 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* telling of Muni's plans to discontinue its owl service on the J-Church line and begin this service on the 24-Divisadero line in January 1992.

I join those Noe Valley residents quoted in the story in being alarmed over the safety factor. After-hours service on the 24-Divisadero line may provide inexpensive transportation for a few people, but will put many more residents at the risk of burglary, mugging, and other serious crimes.

Another negative aspect of the plan would be the increased noise level between 1 and 5 a.m., particularly on those occasions when the electric trolley service is interrupted and it is necessary for Muni to switch to diesel buses. Since Noe Valley is essentially a large canyon, the reverberating noise of the diesel buses would disturb the sleep of thousands of residents.



Finally, there is the real question of whether this change is necessary. The J-Church owl service has served this part of the city well for many years. It serves the Castro area by its route on Church Street between Market and 19th streets, and it has the further advantage of also serving the downtown area. And with the line's future extension to City College, it will become that much more beneficial to the larger community.

I would urge Muni to hold more discussions on this matter. Such a change should not be made without substantial public input, for it will undoubtedly have a significant and largely negative impact on this part of the city. If Muni is sensitive to the community it serves, it will realize that this plan is unnecessary and ill-advised.

Joseph Hughes  
26th Street

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# Disney Waves Wand Over Church Street for Whoopi Goldberg Movie

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be converted into a garden.

Homes near the church have also been sprayed with graffiti and prematurely aged with water-soluble paint. During filming, stripped cars will fill a section of Church Street that is usually lined with late-model Hondas and Toyotas.

*Sister Act* is the story of a Reno lounge singer (Whoopi Goldberg) who witnesses the murder of a notorious mobster. The Reno police decide to sequester their "star witness" in a San Francisco convent until she testifies in the trial. Eventually, Goldberg and the convent sisters form a special relationship and make their neighborhood, which has seen better days, come alive again. (But not before the bad guys track down Goldberg, of course.)

In addition to Goldberg, the PG-rated film features British film star Maggie Smith as the Mother Superior and Harvey Keitel (most recently of *Thelma and Louise* fame) as one of the mobsters.

According to Robin Eichman of the San Francisco Film and Video Arts Commission, *Sister Act* marks the first time a major feature film has been shot in Noe Valley. The neighborhood was selected primarily because of the structural suitability of St. Paul's 90-year-old edifice, where much of the action will take place.

Disney location managers began scouting church sites early this summer, visiting locations in Los Angeles, Atlantic City, and throughout the East Coast. Eventually, they wound up in San Francisco.

"We saw 50 churches in San Francisco alone," says Debra Girard, Disney's assistant location manager on the project. "St. Paul's had exactly the Gothic feel we were looking for."

Disney crew members worked 12-hour days last month in St. Paul's playground-turned-movie-lot, furiously putting hammer to nail to build sets in time for the Sept. 30 production start date. When filming is completed on Oct. 22, the crew will spend a week restoring buildings to their pre-film conditions.

According to Girard, the movie-making will cause only minor traffic and parking inconvenience for the neighborhood. Police will delay vehicular traffic intermittently along Church and 29th streets as filming occurs. However, Muni buses and the J-Church streetcar are not expected to be re-routed.

"We're still working on formulating the traffic plan," says Jim Tomes, a Muni representative. "I know that nothing is going to interfere with rush hour. I'm very optimistic that everything is going to work out fine."

"We've been door to door in the neighborhood to make sure people know what's going on," says Disney staffer Girard. "We're an army, but we're a friendly army," she adds, noting that "99 percent of those we've talked with are fine with the filming."

In fact, most neighbors are thrilled Noe Valley is part of the film.

"I think this is fun," says Selora Albin, a Valley Street resident. "I can't wait to see them begin filming. I'll definitely be

coming out to watch."

"I'm so excited," says Margaret O'Grady of Hall Realty. "I've never seen anything like this. [The TV show] *Streets of San Francisco* filmed here once in the 1970s, but this is the biggest thing I can remember."

Because only the exteriors of most businesses are being shot, all but one of the stores will remain open during filming.

"The shooting won't interrupt us at all," says Rudyne Kremesec of Ronald V. Evans Accounting, which will be temporarily converted into a bail bonds office. "We don't have a lot of street traffic at this time of year. I'm just disappointed that the crew will be covering our windows so I won't be able to see out when they're filming."

Star Bakery, the China Pepper Restaurant, and Twin Peaks Pizza will remain open as well. (During pre-production, crew members could be found helping boost neighborhood business by lunching at China Pepper, Twin Peaks, and nearby Hungry Joe's, or munching on coffee and pastry at Star Bakery and the Sidetrack Cafe.)

While China Pepper and Star Bakery will keep their names for the shoot, the movie crew will give Twin Peaks a pseudonym (Pizza Royale) to prevent any confusion with the cancelled television series of the same name.

Meanwhile, Susan Lang has closed her Ceramics for Interior Design shop until Oct. 24, because Disney asked to use both the store's interior and exterior for the film.

"I was planning to go on vacation anyway," Lang says. "I don't think this is going to affect my business because I'm not super-dependent on street traffic. Most of my work is by appointment."

Lang adds that she's been impressed by the courtesy of the Disney staff. "I have to give the crew a lot of credit for how thoughtful and conscientious they've been."

Businesses and residences, as well as St. Paul's Church, will receive financial compensation from Disney for any interruptions or loss of income the filming causes.

St. Paul's Church has already earmarked the funds it will receive for improving parish and school facilities and programs.

"The sum is very generous," says Father Martin Greenlaw, pastor of St. Paul's. "For a little inconvenience, we will be able to do a lot of good work."

Greenlaw adds that the Archdiocese of San Francisco reviewed the movie script and construction plans for several weeks with Disney executives before approving the use of St. Paul's.

"While the church isn't in the business of making films, we realize that entertainment is a major part of people's lives," he explains. "The church wanted to encourage the type of family-based values found in the entertainment Disney produces." He says the Noe Valley community's enthusiasm for the project was also factored into the decision.

During pre-production of *Sister Act*, St. Paul's elementary students have been



The names and facades of storefronts and residences along the block of Church Street in front of St. Paul's were changed last month to project a more tarnished appearance in the movie *Sister Act*. But the Voice still got a call from a concerned citizen about the "sleazy pawn shop that opened up recently on Church Street." Good work, guys. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

suffering the brunt of the inconvenience, since they've been displaced from their play yard. They've been lunching in classrooms and in the school auditorium, and are holding recess at Day Street Park and on a portion of 29th Street, which police have blocked off for them.

"The students are learning to be flexible like never before," says Sister Ann Cronin, principal of St. Paul's Elementary School. "They don't know what they're going to encounter each morning when they come to school, but they're very excited about the filming."

St. Paul's High School English classes have arranged to observe the filmmaking process firsthand, says Sister Karen Conover, assistant principal for the high school. In addition, Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith have agreed to speak to the student body at a special assembly later this month.

"We're thrilled," says Raquel Perez-Morales, 16, an 11th-grader. "We can't wait to see the film when it's finished. It seems like the whole neighborhood wants to see it."

Adds her classmate Veronica Serrano, also 16, "Just think, 20 years from now, we'll be able to tell our children this movie was filmed at St. Paul's when we went to school there."

Perez-Morales and Serrano signed up to audition as extras for *Sister Act*, but then they learned they had to be at least 18 years old.

"It's Disney's loss," they laugh.

Disney Casting Director Marshall Peck auditioned more than 4,000 San Franciscans, ranging in age from 18 to 75, for the 2,000 extra slots. Five hundred Noe Valley residents showed up for the casting calls at St. Paul's auditorium Sept. 11-13. Residents from other parts of the city auditioned at the Palace of Fine Arts Sept. 14-15.

Although the extras will not be paid for their work, Disney will be holding high-stakes bingo games for them on the set. Winners will be awarded special prizes, including TV sets and Disneyland vacations.

"I'm dying to know if I get a part," says Sister Aimee O'Neill, 74, a former St. Paul's teacher who tried out as an extra. "I've always said that if I hadn't become a nun, I would have been an actress!"

*Sister Act* will be filming Monday through Friday in Noe Valley, and at other locations throughout San Francisco on Saturdays during October. Portions of the film are also being shot in Reno. The movie will be released in the spring of 1992. □

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While preparing for and developing my career as a movement therapist, I worked as a free-lance word processor. I am also a writer who sits for many hours in front of a video display terminal. I understand first-hand the physical problems and solutions of computer work.

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## Fred Methner A Hard Act To Follow

*Continued from Page 1*

(Mayor Dianne Feinstein was a big fan of his), and as reported in the September *Voice*, he was this year's recipient of the "One Neat Citizen" award from the San Francisco Clean City Coalition.

Because of his failing health over the past few months, Fred had stopped making his daily rounds.

"He didn't have the energy anymore," says Paul Kantus, East & West's current president. "But on the weekends, he would ride around with [club vice president] Dave Simon in Fred's car—because Fred had all the paint in the trunk—and Dave would jump out and paint out the graffiti, and Fred would get a big kick out of it."

Fred's partner in grime Dave Simon remembers "what a joy it was to see him get so excited about cleaning up the neighborhood. When we'd paint over a particularly foul piece of graffiti, Fred would say, 'Goody, goody, goody!'"

It had also been a while since Fred had patrolled the poles. He showed more discretion in this activity than some people realized. "If there were garage sale things, he'd leave the notices up until Monday. Pet notices he'd leave up for a week," Kantus notes. "But out-and-out ads, he'd say, 'It's against the law!'"

As secretary of East & West, Fred took great pleasure at meetings in reading the letters of commendation he received



*Ever a saint for sore eyes, the late Fred Methner swooped down to paint out graffiti almost as fast as it was sprayed on walls around the neighborhood. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD.*

from some of the residential group's several hundred members. Members would often enclose a check for six to eight dollars above the \$4.20 annual dues, earmarking the excess for paint.

The dues included a subscription to Fred's home-produced monthly bulletin, which told tales of his clean-up patrols and set forth his positions on neighborhood issues. (He was sternly opposed to commercial growth.)

"I've always disagreed with Fred," says Miriam Blaustein of the more liberal-minded Friends of Noe Valley. "We

disagreed on methods."

"He was very stubborn," admits Kantus, "and he didn't take well to criticism."

But even those who fought with Fred admired him. "I'm going to be 78," says Blaustein, "so in a sense he was a role model, someone who stayed active in the community because he loved it so much. He was also a role model for the younger people who don't have attachments to their place in the community."

So much was he involved, says Kantus, that "when he was healthy, he'd sweep his whole block once or twice a

week," along Jersey Street between Castro and Noe. "And he'd always pick up litter on 24th Street and take it to the nearest garbage can. How many of us do that?"

Mervyn Mark, owner of What's for Dessert on Church Street, says he saw Fred rubbing out spots on the wall of his building on more than one occasion. "I think Fred has been responsible for almost single-handedly getting rid of all the graffiti in the neighborhood over the last few years," Mark says.

"You can't go a block anywhere in Noe Valley without seeing a splotch of Fred's paint covering up some piece of graffiti," adds Simon. "Just try to envision what this place would be like if he had not been around."

His survivors among the neighborhood activists would like to find a way to appropriately memorialize Fred's spirit, particularly since he requested that no funeral service be held following his death.

"We thought maybe we should buy a bunch of litter receptacles and spread them around, with Fred's name on them," suggests Kantus. "And we have the historical archives at the Noe Valley Library branch, so we thought we could call it the Fred Methner Archives."

Blaustein and Simon say they are contemplating putting a "Fred Methner" bench at a scenic Noe Valley overlook, since one of Fred's accomplishments was getting benches installed for seniors at neighborhood bus stops.

"Someone also suggested that we convert the wall on the west side of James Lick's playground to a special graffiti wall for Fred," says Blaustein. "But then Fred might come back!"

It would be just fine if he did. We're sure going to miss him. □

## IT'S ALL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# It All Started In Noe Valley In 1932!



**In a city with more restaurants** per capita than any other city in the U.S., culinary arts flourish here among a discriminating audience accustomed to quality and willing to wait for it. In fact, patrons of Bud's "mother" store in the Noe Valley of San Francisco were known to stand in line for as long as a half hour for what numerous food critics praised as "simply the richest and best tasting ice cream in the city."

**Underlying the Bud's "mystique,"** which rave reviews from food experts and long lines of devoted customers have no doubt helped to create, is a simple formula for success: "The finest and freshest ingredients, and too much of them." Vanilla from Madagascar, cocoa from Holland, mangoes from the Philippines. And 16 percent butterfat, though U.S. regulations require only 10 percent. The result is an exceptionally flavorful, irresistible gourmet ice cream.

**Bud's Ice Cream of San Francisco** is a 60-year-old legend in a city devoted to good living. And if there are still any Bay Area ice cream lovers who doubt the rich experience of Bud's, they might do well to heed the decades-old advice of founder Al "Bud" Edlin: "Just try it!"

**ASK YOUR NOE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD GROCER TO STOCK BUD'S ICE CREAM FOR YOU.**



# Panhandler Headed for Court-Ordered Drug Program

By Steve Steinberg

After listening to testimony from a number of Noe Valley merchants and residents last month, a San Francisco Superior Court judge appeared ready to order 24th Street panhandler Gary Kappes into a drug rehabilitation program.

At a Sept. 20 hearing at the Hall of Justice, Kappes admitted violating his probation on a prior conviction for possession of narcotics.

But as the court session ended, it was still up in the air whether Kappes would go to prison or get court-imposed help for his heroin addiction.

During the hearing, Judge Alfred Chiantelli rejected outright a recommendation from Kappes' probation officer that Kappes serve a year in county jail. Calling that sentence a mere "slap on the wrist," the judge indicated that Kappes would be spared a lengthy prison term only if he expressed a willingness to enter a comprehensive and stringent drug program.

"You play ball with me or I'll send you to state prison...big time," Chiantelli told Kappes. Kappes responded that he was "willing in concept" to commit to a drug program.

The assistant district attorney handling the case, Louis Lipset, also called for nothing less than a prison sentence or a 24-hour-a-day drug program. He noted that Kappes "continued to be a problem to the people of the community," and asked the court for a "stay away" order to keep Kappes out of Noe Valley.

Testimony was then heard from several witnesses, who spoke for and against Kappes.

Sharon Sloane-Ghaly, president of the 25th Street Neighborhood Association, said she and her neighbors in the Inner Mission were "angry" about Kappes' presence in the community, particularly after observing him inject drugs in Osage



**Lunch Money!** Noe Valley's seniors cheered last month as Michelle Terelle, assistant vice president of the local branch of Bank of America, presented a \$2,500 check to the Noe Valley Ministry. Initiated by 24th Street realtor Harry Aleo, the donation will help sustain the seniors' lunch program held weekdays at noon at 1021 Sanchez St. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Alley, near Valencia and 25th streets. She added that people had previously tried to help him, but now "we just want to send him away, lock him up, and throw away the key."

Other angry comments were heard from Betty Grandis, owner of the Treat Stop on Castro near 24th Street. Grandis, speaking of Kappes' panhandling activities, said she wanted an end to his "harassment" of her business and customers.

Grandis' remarks were echoed by Paul Kantus, president of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, who said that elderly people had been intimidated by Kappes on 24th Street.

But several witnesses expressed sympathy for Kappes, describing him as mild-mannered, non-aggressive, and polite.

Anjali Sandaram, who works at Phoenix Books on 24th near Vicksburg, said that "economic reasons" were behind the animosity displayed by Noe Valley mer-

chants toward Kappes, who is homeless. "The merchants do not want to be reminded of homelessness," Sandaram said.

Martin Sprouse, who owns Pressure Drop Press on Clipper Street, called Kappes "one of the most polite people I've ever run into in Noe Valley."

None of those who spoke on Kappes' behalf said they were aware of his drug addiction or had seen him shoot up or have drugs in his possession.

Judge Chiantelli insisted on reminding witnesses that Kappes' heroin use, not his homelessness or style of panhandling, was the real issue before the court.

Noe Valley Community Police Officer Lois Perillo, who had arrested Kappes on several occasions for possession of syringes and other drug paraphernalia, also testified that Kappes' "demeanor" was not in question. Perillo said that because of Kappes' past unwillingness to participate in a drug program, she rec-

ommended that he be sentenced to state prison.

Perillo said after the hearing that "Ideally, I would like him to enter and successfully complete" a drug treatment course, but she doubted his sincerity to do so.

Throughout the hearing, Kappes sat quietly, but appeared alert to what was going on. Clad in orange jail sweat clothes, with his formerly unkempt hair and beard neatly trimmed, he smiled to himself or shook his head at some of the negative remarks leveled against him. When replying to the judge's questions, he barely spoke above a whisper.

At the end of the session, Chiantelli delayed a final decision on the case in order to allow Kappes' attorney, Mark Dalton, a few weeks to map out a specific drug treatment program for Kappes.

In the meantime, Gary Kappes remains in police custody. □

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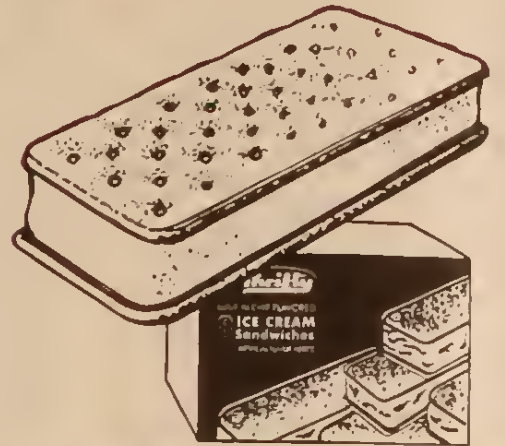


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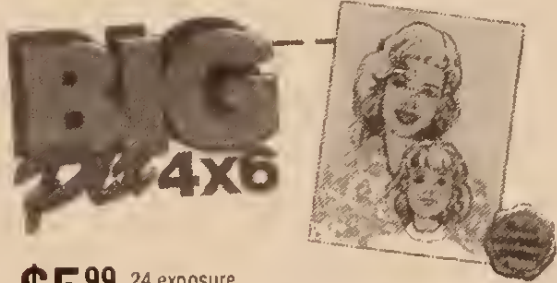
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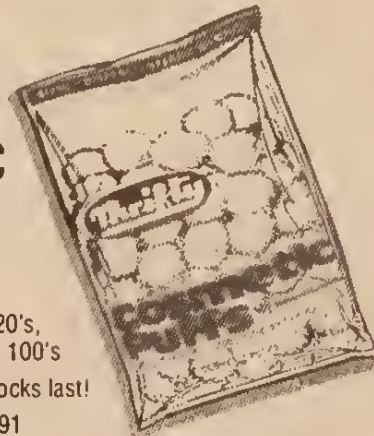
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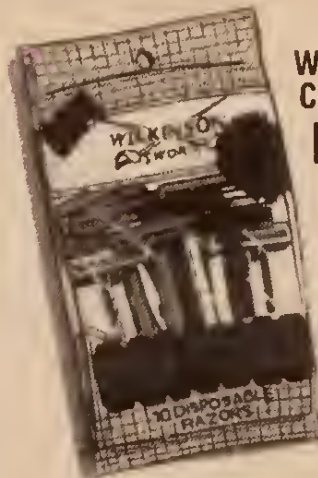


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# Staff Asks Engineer to Measure Electromagnetic Fields Near School

Continued from Page 1

who left in 1990. "There's nothing definite about electromagnetic fields, but when it comes to the issue of making sure an area is safe for adults and children, I didn't think we should take any chances."

During the nine years that Barragan served as Alvarado principal, she knew six staff members—three men and three women—who died of cancer, and five or six women who had required surgery. "I've worked in several schools, and it seemed to me an unusually high number," she said. Barragan did not, however, note any unusual health problems among the students.

(The Voice contacted the San Francisco Health Department, but was unable to verify the cancer rates for Alvarado.)

Two years ago, Barragan wrote a letter about her concerns to Mohamade Shekhzadea, the person in charge of asbestos control and other environmental hazards for the San Francisco Unified School District. Shekhzadea has since left that position. Just last July, Barragan brought the issue up again with his replacement, Arlen Siert, even though Barragan had moved to a new school.

Siert was unavailable for comment, but his assistant, Bruce Giannini, said the school district was aware of the issue and had assigned the investigation to Gene Taguba, the district's program coordinator for environmental concerns. Giannini said that as far as he knew, the district had no plans to conduct its own test of the power lines outside Alvarado.

"The transformers on the pole are the responsibility of PG&E," said Giannini. "There's no way we could go in and make them do that test."

Gene Taguba said he had spoken with representatives of PG&E about the issue.

"They're willing to meet with the staff of Alvarado to discuss this," said Taguba.

Teacher Paula Conrey says she and others at the school will welcome further input. She was so concerned about the transformers this fall, she said, that when given a choice, she picked a classroom on the side of the building away from the power lines.

"I don't have enough information to say that cancer has been caused by the transformers," said Conrey before the test was taken. "A lot of people say this whole thing is total bunk... I'm just in a position of wanting to know more."

Conrey recently underwent surgery, and although she prefers not to specify what type, she said her illness shook her up enough to want to take precautions to preserve her health and the health of her students.

The seemingly high number of cancer cases among Alvarado teachers was also enough to attract the attention of author Ellen Sugarman of New York. Sugarman has been contracted by the publishing house of Simon and Schuster to write *Electropollution: The Electricity Around You May Be Dangerous to Your Health*, and says she is likely to include the case of Alvarado Elementary School in the book.

Before learning the results of last month's measurements, Sugarman was almost certain that the transformers were responsible for Alvarado's high cancer rates. She was surprised to learn of the low milligauss reading, and said she hoped another test would be done at a different time of day to verify the results. Sugarman also advocated more study of the electromagnetic waves emitted from Sutro Tower on Twin Peaks.

"At this point, they should be looking at Sutro Tower," she said.

Frech, the engineer who performed



Baffled by what seems like an unusually high number of cancer deaths among the school's staff, some Alvarado teachers have turned their attention to the power lines near the Douglass Street entrance to the school. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

the test, agreed that if there were an environmental cause for increased cancer rates at Alvarado and in Noe Valley in general, it could be regional and not necessarily limited to the school grounds. He pointed to the cancer "cluster" recorded among children in Noe and Eureka valleys in the early 1980s, and, like Sugarman, suggested that Sutro Tower deserved further investigation.

Taguba said that PG&E regularly tested Noe Valley for emissions from Sutro Tower and, to date, had found nothing to cause alarm. He suggested that residents

who were concerned about the issue should attend a community seminar on electromagnetic fields to be held by the Department of Public Health on Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 300 at 101 Grove St. Those wishing to attend should call 554-2780 to reserve a place. □



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# Two Robbery Episodes Test Nerves of Local Merchants

By Steve Steinberg

A Noe Valley store employee who came face to face with an armed robber this summer decided to say "no" to crime, and threw the gunman out of the door of the shop.

Winfield D'Ambrosia, a second-year employee at Video Wave, 1431 Castro St., was closing down the video-rental store on the evening of Monday, Aug. 19, when the attempted holdup occurred. D'Ambrosia said a man had been in the shop for about an hour, checking out the titles and asking him a lot of questions about store memberships. No one else was in the store at the time.

Suddenly, according to D'Ambrosia, the man walked behind the counter, pulled out an automatic pistol, and said, "Put your hands up."

D'Ambrosia complied, but became so upset and frightened that he tried to give the robber some forms he was holding, thinking they were money. The robber started yelling, "What's that? What's that?" referring to the pieces of paper.

D'Ambrosia said the gunman demanded he lie down on the floor, but the store clerk refused. The robber then started coming toward him, forcing D'Ambrosia to back up into a corner of the shop.

At that point something clicked in D'Ambrosia's head. "I felt he was going to kill me," he said, "so I might at least try to defend myself." Instead of feeling frightened, D'Ambrosia was now angry.

He lunged at the thief, who was standing right over him, pushed him aside, and jumped behind the cash register. There he managed to activate the silent security alarm, notifying the police.

The store clerk, who is a big, athletic-looking man in his late 30s, said he chased the robber around the counter. The gunman then ran out the door with D'Ambrosia right behind him. D'Ambrosia said he pursued him only a few steps outside the exit.

Later, after having viewed the store's surveillance video of the incident, D'Ambrosia said he couldn't believe his actions. "I wouldn't have done it if I'd been in my right mind."

Unfortunately, D'Ambrosia's ordeal did not end with the flight of the holdup man. The police, who arrived with guns drawn

a few minutes after the incident, were reluctant to believe D'Ambrosia when he told them he worked in the store.

D'Ambrosia, who is African-American, said the police "were not sympathetic" toward him and continued to doubt his story until he produced a key to the shop. They then left without taking down any information.

Though a police report was later filed, San Francisco robbery inspectors said in early September that they had yet to come up with a lead in the case. D'Ambrosia described the gunman as being of medium-height, 19 to 25 years old, and weighing around 155 pounds. He had a mustache, and was wearing sunglasses and a baseball-type jacket during the robbery attempt.

## Suspect Nabbed in Pet Store Holdup

The day before the Video Wave holdup, another dramatic robbery episode took place in Noe Valley—this one at the Animal Company pet store on 24th Street near Douglass.

At about 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18, a holdup man, pretending to be a customer, entered the shop. He looked around for a while, then went to the front of the store, where he waved a gun and told everyone to lie on the floor.

According to Animal Company staff, 10 to 12 customers, as well as several employees, were in the shop at the time.

Store owner Gary Thompson said the robber acted extremely "agitated and animated... out of control, like he was wired on something." Thompson said the thief stood by the door yelling throughout the robbery.

At one point, according to another staff member, the robber screamed at an employee that she wasn't handing over the cash fast enough. "I don't have any time to lose," the robber reportedly said.

Thompson praised everyone for remaining "remarkably cool" during the course of the holdup, and he expressed relief that no one was hurt. "There was an incredible potential for someone to be shot," he said, "especially if they had over-reacted."

The entire robbery lasted only two or three minutes, according to staff. The thief then fled with about \$600 in cash.



**Not Fur Everyone:** Dog may be man's best friend, but these kids at First National Nail on Vicksburg Street are not quite ready to get friendly with Amber. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

But alert neighbors, who saw the robber "running madly" down 24th Street toward a parked car near Diamond Street, copied down his license number.

Police apprehended the thief 2½ hours later in an apartment in San Bruno, where he had been traced through the license plate. S.F. Police Robbery Inspector Randy Krings identified the suspect as Daniel Lee, a transient and 1990 parolee from California state prison, where he had served time for a previous robbery.

Krings said Lee, who confessed to the Animal Company theft, was also a sus-

pect in several other similar robberies that had occurred in San Francisco during the prior month.

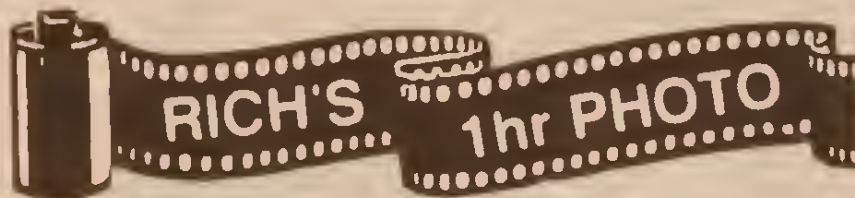
When he was caught, Lee had less than \$100 of the robbery money on him, Krings said. According to the inspector, Lee told police that he was a crack cocaine user and had immediately used the money to pay off drug debts and buy more crack.

Krings said he expected that Lee would be prosecuted as a "career criminal," which would add more time to his sentence. "It's just another tragic case of crack cocaine use," Krings said. □

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## 20/20 Makes Room for Local Moms on Family Bed

By Jane Underwood

Two local moms recently took a stand on an issue that mattered to them. And before they knew it, one of them was being filmed for a spot on national television.

Lisa Moresco, co-owner of Natural Resources—a childbirth resource center on 24th Street—and Michele Mason, who teaches parenting classes there, got the attention of ABC's 20/20 producers last spring, when they wrote them a letter protesting a special program on babies and sleeping, "What's a Parent to Do?", that aired May 21.

"What happened," explains Mason, the mother of two small children, "was that they aired a program about Dr. Richard Ferber, who wrote a book called *Solve Your Child's Sleep Problems*. He basically says to put your babies in their cribs and let them cry—you can go in at intervals of 5, 10, and 20 minutes, tell them it's okay, and leave again. But you're not supposed to touch them, that's his big thing, that there shouldn't be any human contact."

Ferber's advice is not uncommon among pediatricians, notes Mason. But she and Moresco, as they declared in their letter to 20/20, were "appalled and vehemently opposed" to the uncritical promotion of Ferber's methods on a TV show of such widespread influence.

"We were both outraged," says Moresco, not only because they disagreed with Ferber, but because "viewers were given no other alternatives."

"The information they gave out was really bad," says Mason, "because they didn't discuss the repercussions of what happens to babies when you do that to them."

Mason and Moresco faxed their letter to New York two days after the show aired, and then started a letter and phone call campaign. Their determination paid



Natural Resources co-owner Michele Mason (left, with daughters Hannah and Antoinette) and Lisa Moresco (seated next to her, with son Alexander) told 20/20 they disagreed with a broadcast on how to handle children's sleeping problems, and wound up airing their own views on a follow-up show. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

off, and on June 26, the television show sent a film crew to Noe Valley, to do a special follow-up segment with an opposing viewpoint.

"They came to my home," says Mason, "did some filming here, interviewed me, and then came to Natural Resources the following morning, where they filmed one of my post-partum parenting classes, and various moms discussed how they felt about the gentleman we were in protest about."

The follow-up show, which was scheduled to air Sept. 27, focused on "the family bed," a sleeping arrangement that Mason and Moresco both espouse—which says that it's perfectly okay for parents and children to share the same bed, at least sometimes.

"If you're a breastfeeding mother, it's the most natural thing to do," says

Mason. And some families continue their communal sleeping arrangements until their children are 3 or even older.

"Everyone has to follow their own heart," Mason adds, "but [the family bed] means at least acknowledging to your child that you have an open-door policy, that it's okay for them to come in Mom and Dad's room if they want to."

The 10-minute 20/20 segment also featured a short interview with Tine Thevensin, author of the book *The Family Bed*, plus an appearance by one of Mason and Moresco's mentors, Dr. Wil-

liam Sears, who wrote the popular book *Nighttime Parenting*.

If you missed the show and want more information on the subject of babies and sleep, Mason and Moresco suggest you drop by Natural Resources, open Monday through Saturday at 4081 24th St.

But you might already have caught the *Phil Donohue Show* that aired Sept. 25. It seems that Phil scooped 20/20 by hosting his own show on the family bed. And yes, Michele Mason was an invited guest—proof of what a good letter to the editor can do. □

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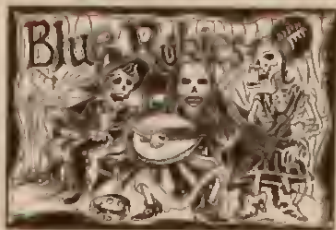
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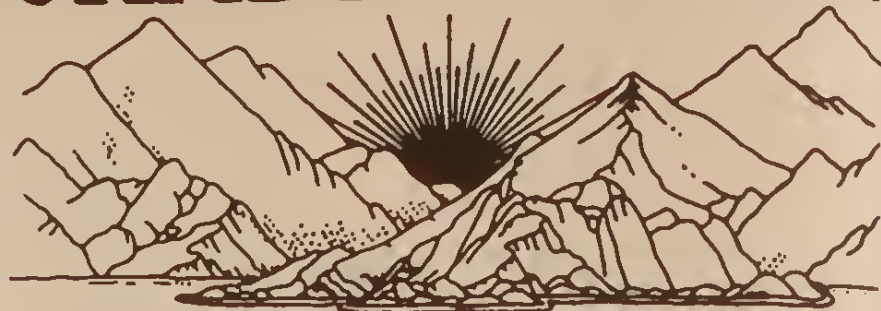
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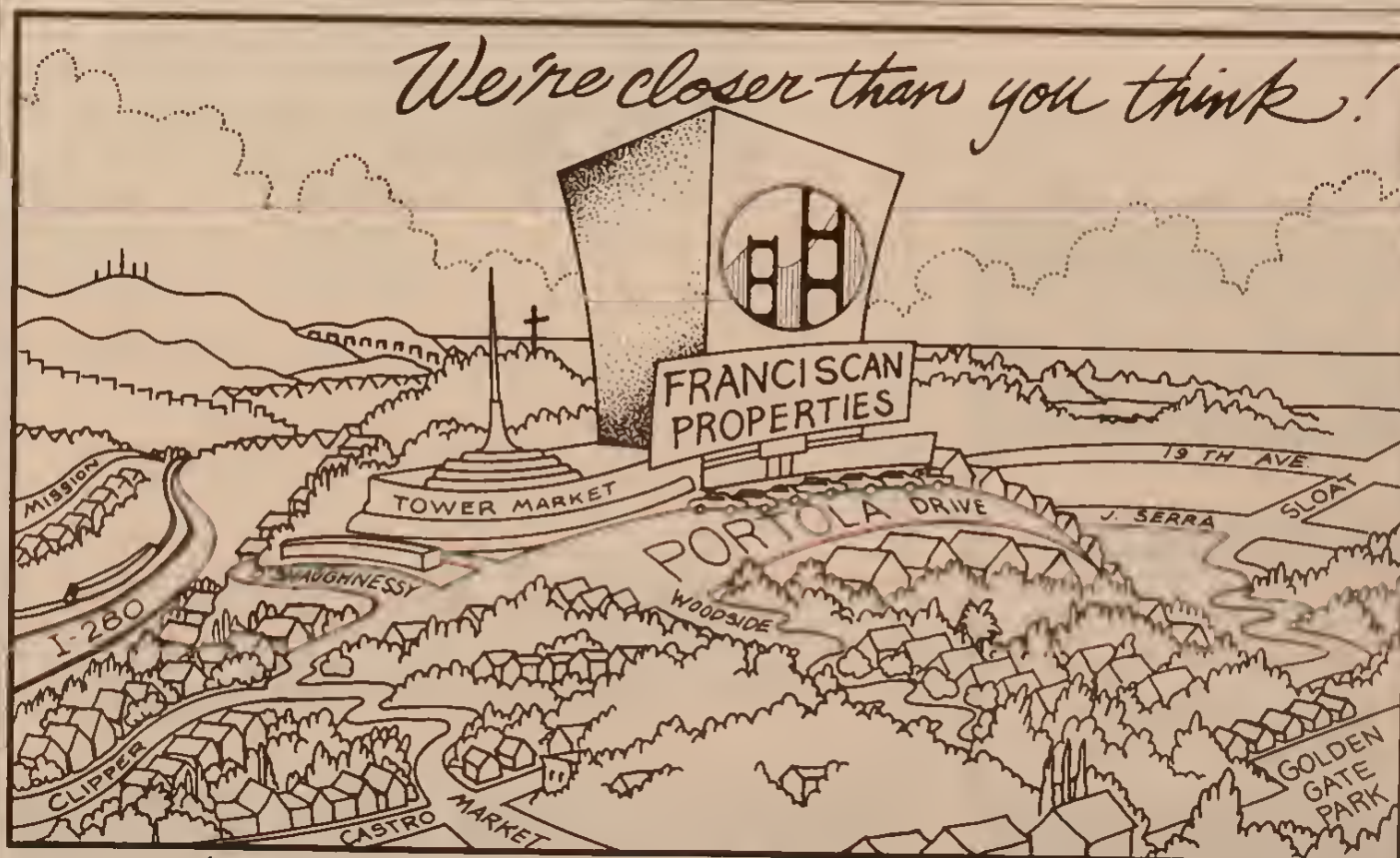


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# St. Paul's Counts Its Blessings for Father Tom

By Laura Holland

If you stroll by St. Paul's around 10:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning, there's a good chance you'll see a flock of giggling children surrounding a slender priest with wavy gray hair—Father Thomas Seagrave, the church's 49-year-old associate pastor.

The children shadow Seagrave's every move, and maneuver to get a hug and a soft-spoken blessing from the man who always takes the time to stoop down and tell each one how glad he is they came to mass. If Seagrave is walking ahead of a family, a child may hurt into a run to catch up and tap him playfully from behind. And if for some reason he is missing from the crowd on the church steps, a little one will pull on her mother's arm and whisper anxiously, "Where is Father Tom?"

But children aren't the only ones whose eyes light up when they see "Father Tom," either conducting services at the majestic cathedral on Church Street, or knocking on doors in St. Paul's 1,500-member parish.

"Where do you go when everything is messed up? Probably to Father Tom," says Sister Maureen O'Brien, principal of St. Paul's High School. "I have known him for 19 years. During that time I have known that I could call on him for any person in need. He is one in a million when it comes to being there for others."

Born in 1942, and raised with two brothers and a sister in the house his grandfather built in 1905 on Cortland Avenue, Seagrave had a childhood that now sounds almost idyllic.

In an interview this past August, Seagrave leaned back comfortably in his chair and fondly recalled the days when San Francisco was a collection of small towns, where everyone knew everyone else and nobody locked their doors. Since there were no supermarkets, people did the bulk of their shopping at the corner stores, which functioned like neighborhood centers. "If your mom wasn't home, you just went to Josephine at the corner store," Seagrave says.

One of Tom Seagrave's favorite activities as a kid was going with his friends to Saturday afternoon movies.

"We had the Cortland Theater, and 24th Street had the Noe Theater. But the one we all went to was the Lyceum, a first-class movie theater with a balcony where they showed cartoons, coming attractions that left you hanging on your seats, and two family-style movies," he says. The Lyceum Theater was next to Mariani's, a giant hardware emporium, and they both occupied the spot where the Safeway at Mission and Virginia streets now stands.

Seagrave's experience of Catholicism as a youth was nothing like that of lapsed Catholics who wear sweatshirts emblazoned with the words "I Survived Catholic School," and he has no horror stories

to report concerning strict treatment from nuns.

"Christianity in my home was very real," he reflects. "Everybody in my family went to mass every Sunday, and all my parents' friends and families did so, too. They were all honest and charitable people. We all had faults, but [they were] within the context of a very sincere commitment to principles of love and truth. The gospel I learned wasn't just talk that was contradicted by the real lives of the people doing the talking," he adds.

Seagrave also found the nuns and brothers who taught him—first at St. John's

possible. Initially he thought he would study law and go into politics. But in his senior year at Riordan, he focused on "eternal values" versus "temporal values," and the eternal won out.

"I felt I would have liked to get married and have children, but I knew the world would survive if I didn't. Everybody is called to make sacrifices for the things they believe in," he says.

In 1962, two years after Seagrave entered St. Patrick's Seminary, the Roman Catholic Church launched its ecumenical council, Vatican II—an event that changed the church dramatically. Even

"There was the peace movement, the farm workers' movement, and Cesar Chavez marching under the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many nuns, priests, and rabbis were in the forefront of these movements once they got rolling," he recalls. "We were really going to turn the world on its ear."

Seagrave's first assignment after the seminary was at St. Mary's Parish in rural Gilroy, which has a large migrant Mexican population. He witnessed firsthand a crop-dusting plane dropping pesticides on a field of workers, and visited large families living in small cabins with



St. Paul's popular associate pastor, "Father Tom" Seagrave, often has a hard time getting off the church steps after mass on Sundays—there are just too many people among his parishioners, young and old, to say hello to. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARO.

Grammar School and then at Riordan High School—to embody a generous mix of concern and discipline. They responded well to the many questions he and his friends raised, he says.

Don Partier, a resident of 29th Street, sat two seats in front of Seagrave all through high school. "I always thought he had a vocation from the outset to be a priest," Partier says, "because he's so kind-hearted and helpful to people. And I think he has fulfilled what he wanted to do, and is a very happy man doing what he is doing."

Inspired by the cardinals of Eastern Europe who resisted communism after World War II, as well as by Pope Pius XII, Martin Luther King Jr., the Kennedys, and Cesar Chavez, young Seagrave knew he wanted to influence the world for good in the most effective way

though Seagrave describes it as a thrilling time to be joining the priesthood, he was nonetheless charting unknown territory.

"I went to the seminary to be a certain kind of priest in a certain kind of church. Eight years later they asked me to be a different kind of priest in a different church." This new church had shed its European cultural confinement and outmoded traditions, and was embarking on a period of social activism.

Though some of his friends dropped out, Seagrave remained in the seminary and was ordained in 1968 as a secular priest. His ordination coincided with San Francisco's "Summer of Love," and he was among the thousands of idealistic seekers who attended happenings and rock concerts (Monterey Pop, for one), and who thronged the streets of the Haight-Ashbury.

dirt floors and no plumbing. And even though he'd never thought of himself as particularly radical, Seagrave wound up on a picket line turning away large trucks in a Salinas peace march.

Despite the fact that Seagrave's parishioners welcomed him warmly into their lives and succeeded in raising his consciousness in the 2½ years he spent at St. Mary's, he went through a personal crisis and considered leaving the church—an institution whose rigid structure could be extremely frustrating. But then he heard of an opening at St. Paul's, the church he had attended throughout his youth.

"I thought perhaps if I went back to my home situation, I would get back in touch with what motivated me to the

Continued on Page 14

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## The Blessings of Father Tom

*Continued from Page 13*

priesthood in the first place," he says. He hoped to rekindle his childhood wonder at St. Paul's ethereal beauty—revealed in the church's soaring steeple, the resonant strains of the pipe organ, and the stained-glass windows that depicted stories he had learned at his mother's knee.

"The church ingrains itself and really gets into your bloodstream. When I returned, it was like having a transfusion, having my anemia cured."

From 1970 to 1976, Seagrave ministered to the needs of parishioners at St. Paul's. Then for the next nine years, he was sent to St. Peter's, a 14,000-member parish located in the Mission District. (It's common for pastors to be assigned to a new

parish every six years or so.) But in 1985, Seagrave returned to St. Paul's, where he and Father Don Flickinger now serve as associates to Father Martin Greenlaw, the church's pastor.

During his long career, Seagrave has helped rescue people from burning buildings, talked people out of committing suicide, and dodged gunfire and sharp knives. But these experiences do not stand out particularly in his memory—they are just part of the job.

One of his favorite duties is celebrating sacraments—baptisms, marriages, and funerals—because they demonstrate our positive side. "Baptism affirms the worth of a person from the start. Funerals affirm the worth of a person to the end. Matrimony challenges a relationship to be nourishing, life-giving, and creative. Even confession, which deals with sin, performs a reassuring, affirming function," he says.

He has so far baptized about 3,500

people, and performed 850 weddings and 900 funerals.

One of Seagrave's great laments, however, is that there aren't enough hours in the day to accomplish what he wants to do. "I can't touch all the bases, and I am constantly disappointing people because I can't always make it to visit them quite when they need me."

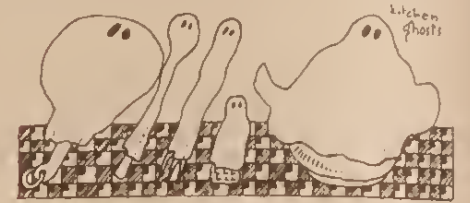
Nevertheless, Seagrave has personally engineered stipends for students whose parents were unable to afford Catholic school, brought food to families with bare cupboards, and helped others pay their rent or fulfill financial obligations. He lives simply—in the church rectory on Valley Street—and gives away any money he receives to those in need.

He has also waged battles against what he considers to be the misguided national policies and declining social values of Americans. "I see a vast government spending money on things that are immoral, and also the obnoxious, conspicu-

ous spending in the lives of people all around. And then I see one kid's life go down the drain for want of \$1,000. Poverty is bad, and I just have to deal with it."

After 12 years at St. Paul's, Father Tom can rest assured that his "dealing with it" has had a major impact on the community.

Says Sister Maureen O'Brien, "He is a blessing to so many of us who share life here in Noe Valley. We are often hard pressed to find people of great integrity today, but here is one."



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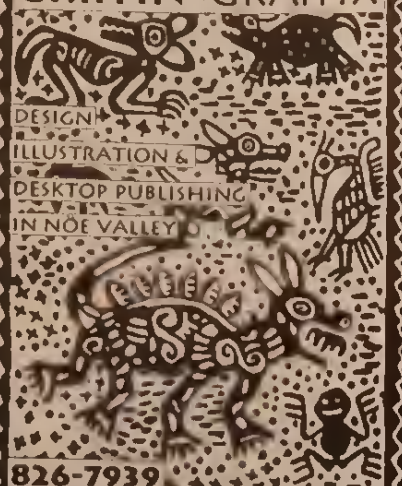
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# Behold the 'Arch of Experience' on Jersey Street

By Grace D'Anca

The exotic front-yard garden of Manuel Fernandez at 373 Jersey St. has always been a delight to the neighborhood.

It is crisscrossed with fronds of banana and palm trees, and with ginger, bird of paradise, and other tropical plants. Geraniums, impatiens, and assorted colorful blooms, resting amid lava rocks, carpet an area that once was a driveway. Bonsai trees line one fence. Totems and primitive faces painted on panels by Fernandez's housemate, Lawrence Kulig, adorn other fences and the front of the rust-colored wood-frame house.

But for the past few months, neighbors and passersby have been treated to an especially inviting display: a temple-like sculpture, called "Arch of Experience," that was designed and created by one of Fernandez and Kulig's artist friends, Brett Chisessi.

Six parallel columns, made of richly textured pressed wood, rise 8 feet to support a clear-bottomed, 7-by-7-foot basin of trickling water. When standing on the Oriental rug that covers the sod floor of the structure, viewers can look up and see the sky and trees through the water overhead.

"I just turned 30 and wanted to do a monumental work showing that I'm choosing to be a professional artist," said



Brett Chisessi (left) designed the eye-catching "Arch of Experience," a walk-through sculpture that graces the lush Jersey Street garden of Manuel Fernandez (right).  
PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

Chisessi, who trained in art history and design at U.C.L.A. "Manuel and Lawrence know how hard it is to exhibit something like this, so they invited me to show it here. I call it 'Arch of Experience' because I want to share my ability to enjoy the world around me."

A sign on the gate and another near the sculpture bear a quote from Homer's *Odyssey* that holds particular meaning for Chisessi: "I am a part of all that I have met, yet all experience is an arch where-thro gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades forever and forever when I move."

Fernandez, who has lived in the house for over 15 years, says people have always stopped to peer in the garden, but now that it boasts the sculpture, they find it especially intriguing. He makes an effort to invite them in.

"I'm happy to show people the garden. When I first moved here, the yard was full of trash, the house was a former commune, a real fixer-upper," Fernandez said. Though he works in sales, he considers gardening his art form. "The garden is the perfect setting for Brett's piece. It would be very difficult to find another environment to do it justice."

Chisessi estimates that some 300 people have seen the sculpture since he constructed it in June, with help from some of the neighbors.

"It took me two weeks to build it in a studio, and then two days to put it up here," said Chisessi, an Alamo Square resident who hopes to move to Noe Valley someday. "I had some very interesting encounters with the neighbors. It seems that whenever you destroy something or put something together, people want to help you."

Neighbors on both sides of the block of Jersey between Noe and Castro say they admire the sculpture and are quite taken with watching people view the piece. "The sculpture draws a lot of interest," said Joe Busiek, who lives nearby. "People stop and look at it and go away with a favorable impression."

John Cullen, Fernandez and Kulig's next-door neighbor, enjoys their garden for all the greenery he sees outside his front window. And he likes the sculpture too. "It relieves the eye. It stands up tall and breaks up the monotony of the fences when you walk down the street."

But the best part about the sculpture has to be the view from within. Says 7-year-old 24th Street resident Casey Salm, "It feels like being under water without being wet, like being inside the [Steinhart] Aquarium."

"Arch of Experience" will remain on Jersey Street until the beginning of December. Residents who'd like to experience its complete sound and feel should call Chisessi at 563-4676 to schedule an appointment to come inside the grounds. It can be illuminated at night, he says, and is especially magical when the reflections of water ripples dance on the columns. □



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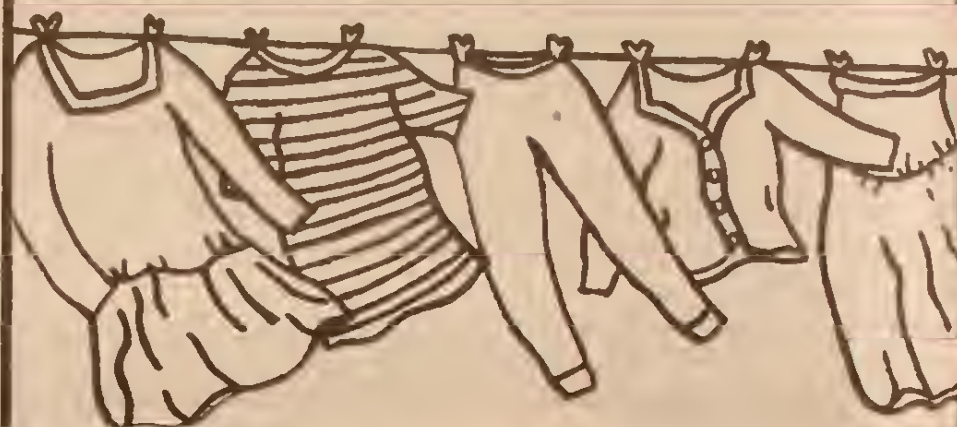
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# New Principal Opens Doors (and Windows) At Alvarado This Fall

By Steve Steinberg

A new principal arrived at Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St., this fall—the second administrator to fill the post in as many years.

Aurora Maramag replaced Vincent Matthews, who left the San Francisco Unified School District this summer to take the job of vice principal at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley. Matthews was Alvarado's principal for the 1990-91 school year.

Maramag comes to Alvarado from the Filipino Education Center, where she served as principal last year. Due to budget constraints, the school district recently closed the education center, which was a special program geared to the academic needs of young Filipino immigrants.

Because Alvarado teachers and parents did not have time to take part in the selection of their new principal, the district appointed Maramag on an interim basis. She is contracted at Alvarado only through the end of January. In December, the school will begin the formal process of choosing a permanent principal.

Maramag says that assuming she fits in at the school "in terms of method and philosophy," she wants to be a candidate for the permanent job. "I do want to remain here, provided I am selected by the teachers, parents, and the community."

Born in Manila, Maramag came to the United States at the age of 11. She attended several San Francisco elementary schools and the former Pelton Junior High, and graduated from Lowell High School in 1965. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from San Francisco State University.

A 17-year veteran of the school district, Maramag, 43, has also put in 12



Principal Aurora Maramag, shown here surrounded by some of her new students, plans to maintain higher test scores and improve attendance at Alvarado Elementary School this year. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

years as a classroom teacher, at both elementary and secondary levels.

She makes her home in the Richmond District, but says she has always loved Noe Valley and at one time lived on Fair Oaks Street.

At Alvarado this term, Maramag would like to continue the progress made by Matthews last year. "I have a lot of respect for that man," Maramag says. "I really commend him for the work he did in one year."

Under Matthews' leadership, Alvarado made significant advances in test scores, achieving "more than a one-year gain" in math and reading, Maramag points out. For several years, the school has been aided by special funding designed to promote racial integration and academic achievement. The additional money allows for smaller class size, more resource teachers, and support staff.

One of the main challenges facing the school now, Maramag says, is ensuring that all the students make it to school every day. Seventy-five percent of the 446 children who attend Alvarado are

bused in from other areas of the city. Since the school day starts at 7:30 a.m., Maramag notes, the majority of the students have to be out the door by 6:30 or 7:00, just to catch the bus.

Maramag would like to see more neighborhood kids attending Alvarado, but she admits that Noe Valley parents may have chosen to send their children to other schools partly because of Alvarado's poor record on achievement tests in the past. Now, however, all that is turning around. "Alvarado will provide the best education possible for all our children," she maintains.


Maramag praises the school's 26 teachers for their "collegiality and professionalism.... They are a hard-working group of people." She adds that the school has a "strong and vocal" PTA, which wrote letters to the school board this summer protesting the planned layoff of six Alvarado teachers. Those letters must have had the right effect, Maramag says, because no Alvarado teachers will be laid off this fall.

In addition to the threat of layoffs,

Maramag confronted another stickler when she arrived at the school in August: all the windows were boarded up. She says the school district was supposed to replace the windows over the vacation, but encountered problems with the contractor hired to do the job. Through some sort of snafu, the wrong-size windows had been ordered for the site.

Maramag insisted that the right windows be installed in a timely fashion, and even threatened not to open the school until the work was well under way. Fortunately, the new principal prevailed, and the windows were being replaced last month. Maramag also saw to it that the work was done after school hours, so as not to disrupt the learning process.

Maramag recognizes that she's under considerable pressure to do well, since her tenure is only temporary and the teachers and parents at Alvarado will be closely evaluating her work. But she remains upbeat. "All I can do is give it my best shot," she says, adding, "but I always give every position 300 percent." □



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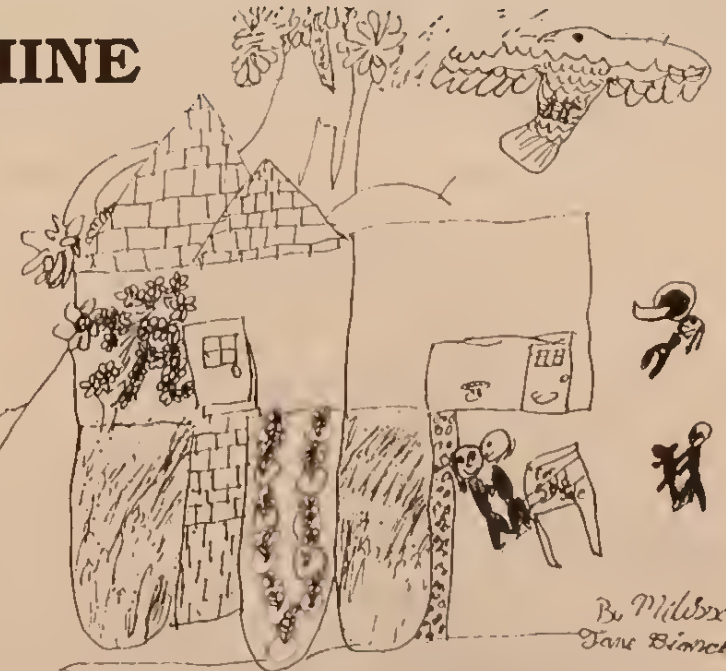
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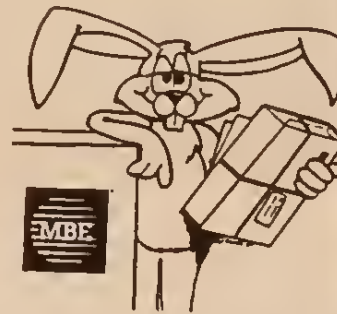
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# Back in the U.S., Back in the U.S., Back in the U.S.S.R.

By Denise Minor

*Editor's Note: Even though you may have been inundated with news of the political upheaval in the Soviet Union over the past two months, we couldn't resist sharing Voice writer Denise Minor's personal connection to the story.*

I was sitting alone at the kitchen table the night of Aug. 18 when phone calls from friends started coming in constant waves. There had been a coup in the Soviet Union that day, and my husband, Alex Milgram, was there on business at the time.

"Have you heard from him?" they all asked. "Will he be able to get out?"

I switched on the television news, turned from channel to channel, and saw a barrage of confusing reports. Gorbachev was held prisoner in his Crimean dacha. The politburo had turned against him. Tanks were filling the streets of Moscow.

Alex would be all right, I was sure. He spoke Russian and could take perfectly good care of himself, right? The military would never detain U.S. citizens, right? Even though my mind was certain he would be fine, I couldn't convince my stomach. It stayed in a knot for three days.

And for three long days I sat anchored in front of the TV, addicted to the media madness even more than I had been during the Gulf War and the '89 earthquake. Once I caught myself searching the screen for Alex's face when the camera scanned a crowd on a Moscow street. And I leapt to the phone every time it rang.

Finally, just after the coup was defeated, the wife of Alex's traveling companion, Daniel Nenaydikh, got through by phone to Vinnitza, the Ukrainian town where our husbands were staying. She spoke to both Alex and Daniel, and everything was okay.

Only then did I relax enough to realize that not only was everything okay, it was wonderful. In his first trip back to the motherland since he'd left at the age of 14, Alex had witnessed one of the most important revolutions in the history of the Soviet Union. I was jealous.

As recently as 1989, Alex hadn't intended to ever go back. Being Jewish, he never felt like he truly belonged in that country, he said. Anti-semitism in the U.S.S.R. is often subtle and only occasionally overt, he explained, but almost always present.

It wasn't just Alex who had expressed these feelings—but every Soviet Jew I'd met since being introduced to him four years ago. So I was doubly struck by news footage showing that the first young protestor to be killed in the Moscow demonstrations was Jewish. Had things changed so much, I wondered, that a young Jew would risk his life over the fate of the Soviet Union?

For Alex, who emigrated to the United States in 1976, it took a long time to get used to being called a "Russian" here. Alex's Soviet identity card was stamped "Jewish," he was born in the Ukraine, and he had never before thought of himself as Russian, an ethnicity he associated with the country's ruling bureaucrats.

In the early days of our relationship, he also showed absolutely no signs of nostalgia for the place he was born.

"Don't you miss anything about the Soviet Union?" I once asked. He thought for a moment, then answered: "Yeah, the bread."

But then Alex met Daniel, a recent Soviet Jewish emigré, and the two quickly became friends and business partners. Daniel convinced Alex that there was lots of business to be done between the U.S. and the rapidly evolving U.S.S.R., and that they were the pair to pull it off.

So on Aug. 13, after eight months of preparation, Daniel and Alex flew to Moscow for a 2½-week business trip. "I don't like this," said Daniel's wife, Olga, before they left. "You should never embark on a journey on the 13th."

Now, however, Alex considers the number 13 lucky. "I had the most incredible trip," he said when we finally stopped hugging at the airport. "I've got to go back."

Business went well—Daniel and Alex formed joint ventures with two Soviet companies. But more importantly, Alex saw the land where he was born with



San Francisco emigrés Alex Milgram (far left) and Daniel Nenaydikh (far right) returned to establish trade relations with their native Soviet Union this summer and found themselves in the middle of political upheaval. The day after the coup, they posed with local businessmen in the Ukraine.

different eyes.

"I had forgotten how much people cling to one another there," he said. "They get together in kitchens at night and smoke harsh cigarettes, drink vodka and tea, and talk about everything. They seem to need each other more than we do here."

It is only through friends and contacts that the average Soviet citizen survives, he said. Most people make about 300 rubles a month, and that's only enough to buy a half pair of pants. They need their connections on the black market just to get by.

During the coup attempt, and in the days immediately thereafter, people clung to one another even more than usual. Alex missed the demonstrations in Moscow (he left the city on a train to Vinnitza the night before Gorbachev was "relieved" of his post), but he observed the people's reactions in the towns of the Ukraine. There was an air of elation, he said, and Alex seemed to carry a piece of it back with him.

He was also intrigued by the attitudes of young people. "There is an enormous generation gap, and young adults are very rebellious. It feels, in a way, like I imagine the sixties felt here." But instead of rebelling against '50s materialism, as students did in the U.S., Soviet youths are railing against their parents' institutions—communism and a state-controlled economy. They want to make money, and they want to own nice things.

The young are in love with anything American—clothes, movies, music. Alex saw one interesting adaptation of U.S. culture on a popular morning television show: husky Soviet women doing aerobic exercises to American rap music.

In hopes of finding Soviet creations they can sell in the U.S., Daniel and Alex spent considerable time with artists and craftspeople in both Moscow and the Ukraine. One of Alex's favorite experiences was riding around in the back of a truck with a group of blacksmiths from a village near Moscow who had turned their torches to making metal sculptures. "These were not your highbrow artsy types," Alex said with a smile. "These were peasants who drank a lot of vodka."

Life is going to be difficult for the Soviets for quite some time, but Alex is very optimistic that they will come out ahead. "They've survived much worse—World War II and the Stalinist years," he said. The black market economy and the network of friends will be the Soviet Union's saving grace. "The connections that people have had to cultivate just to survive—those will be the basis of a new economic order."

And now, as I listen to the stories that are still emerging two weeks after his return, I can't help but reflect on Alex's change in attitude. I've found him watching the Russian channel on cable television, something he never did before.

"Just think," he said one night last week as he helped me study vocabulary for my beginning Russian class at City College. "maybe we'll move to Russia or the Ukraine for a year, and you'll get lots of practice speaking."

Who knows? Maybe we will. □



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# Discovering The Charms Of 3 Jewelry Designers

By Jeanne Alexander

One favors crystal and gold, another uses beer bottle caps, and the third works in silver and slate. The jewelry that Dona Taylor, Remi Ruhel, and Amy Faust create from their chosen materials mark them as three of Noe Valley's most designing women. And they have designs on many of the necks and ears in the neighborhood.

## Amy Faust's Architectural Artistry

When Faust drives from her apartment on Noe Street to her studio on Arkansas, she notices houses. That's because architectural elements are a recurring motif in her work.

Her square "window" earrings come complete with tiny silver sills, and two slanted silver bars form the roof of a house dangling from one of her silver chain necklaces. She makes a house ring, a house holo, and a stunning bracelet of silver discs and squares with a three-roof house as its centerpiece.

"I move a lot," Faust says, "and a house is a symbol of home."

But her line isn't house-bound, by any means. Using silver, gold, steel, and slate, Faust also fashions designs inspired by fans and shields, lightning bolts, and triangles. Many are set with gemstones—carnelian, garnet, lapis, amber, and turquoise. The pieces, ranging in price from \$50 to \$700, are one of a kind, and Faust sold so many at a recent show in Santa Monica that her black velvet jewel trays are currently a little bare.

Out of Hand, a gift shop on Castro at 24th, carries several of her pieces, and her work can also be found at Brava Strada on Sacramento Street, and at the newly opened Modern Myths, in Ghirardelli Square. She is in the Collector's Gallery at the Oakland Museum, and the Gallery of Functional Art in Santa Monica, which is affiliated with the Los Angeles Museum of Modern Art.

It's the designing and creating of jewelry that Faust likes best—but, she laments, it's the selling and bookkeeping that "kind of inundate craftspeople." Still, she prefers this to the teaching post she held for a year and a half at the California College of Arts and Crafts (until last December). Not that she didn't like the students, but "it was frustrating to watch people being creative all day when you wanted to get to a studio and work on your own things."

Faust, 31, arrived at her studio by way of the State University of New York at New Paltz—where she graduated with a B.F.A. in gold and silversmithing—and jobs in Woodstock and Martha's Vineyard, selling, repairing, and designing jewelry. "Then I had to come to California," she says.

A stint in a jewelry store on Clement Street, and a job with a jewelry manufacturer eventually segued into the Arkansas Street workspace.

What's the next step? Faust wants to design more art pieces, and her Japanese customers may pave the way. She has just completed a line of earrings in ster-



Noe Street resident Amy Faust has recently completed a line of silver and glass earrings that is being marketed in Japan.  
PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD



The earrings and necklaces of Dona Taylor, shown here in her Gallery of Jewels on 24th Street, are dressy but affordable.

ling silver, onyx, and hand-blown glass heads, that is being marketed in Japan. If all goes well, she'll have them produced in quantity, and the resulting income

would free her to concentrate on the more exclusive designs now collecting on her mental drawing board.

"I'm influenced by Japanese design,

its simplicity and connection to raw materials," she says, "and by architectural angles and construction—putting the pieces together has always fascinated me."

## The Glint in Dona Taylor's Eye

In Dona Taylor's Gallery of Jewels shop on 24th Street, the dangling earrings with the highest quotient of flash and glitter were designed by Taylor herself. "My look is real dressy," she says.

On the work table of the large, sunny room that she and her husband Bill have made into a studio in their Noe Valley apartment, Taylor's holiday line of brooches, necklaces, and earrings is in the works. She's combining brilliantly colored Swarovski crystals—top of the line Austrian imports—with shiny pieces of brass, and she's festooning her best-selling eye-mask earrings (earrings shaped like tiny masks) with jeweled tops and dangles. Little containers of jet beads, faux pearls, and acrylics, chosen for their light weight, sit waiting to be incorporated into a design.

Termed "the great manipulator" by her husband ("With her needle-nose pliers and knack for design, she can do anything!"), Taylor began designing jewelry in Colorado Springs, where she had a vintage clothing shop from 1978 to 1989.

In 1989, she returned to her native California (she was born in San Jose 36 years ago), and Noe Valley beckoned. Working from the outside in, literally, Taylor started out by selling her jewelry on the street next door to Bell Market. Then in June of 1990, she opened Gallery of Jewels in the small storefront near Castro occupied by The Frog Shop years ago.

Her earrings, and those of the other designers she features, are all priced at under \$50—mostly in the \$20 to \$42 range. Elsewhere in the city, Enchanted Crystals, Paparazzi, Solo, and Pizazz carry her wares, as do stores in Napa, Sonoma, and Yountville (where her grape earrings disappear as quickly as wine slides down the throat).

She has just created a new line, called Adornments, that Macy's is launching in New York and San Francisco this fall.

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# Jewelry-makers Whose Talents Shine on 24th Street

And she is continually producing versions of her popular "shrimpies," "the [shorter dangly] earrings that Noe Valley women wear in the daytime." They're scaled down in length, but sparkled up with crystals.

Where does she get the ideas for her creations? Taylor says new designs usually crop up after her annual trip to Providence, R.I., the supply capital of the jewelry world and the source of the many decorative ingredients she works with. (One earring can contain 25 individual pieces.)

"I get inspired by finding all this great stuff," she says, "and I come back and look at what I've bought, and just start throwing things together."

## Remi Rubel's Bottle-Cap Reflections

Framed by one of Remi Rubel's flattened bottle caps, Georgia O'Keeffe dangles on an earring. Elvis swings back and forth from another. Lucille Ball, Frida Kahlo, and the Beatles also turn up on necklaces, pins, and earrings in Rubel's collection of bottle cap bijoux.

Innovative and witty, the creations from her studio on Third and 20th Streets have taken off and are popping up around the world in Italy, Japan, and Austria. In San Francisco they are sold at Panetti's on 24th Street, at Virginia Breier Contemporary and Traditional Craft on Sacramento Street, and at Forma and Soft Touch galleries in the Haight. Prices range from \$12 to \$50 for earrings, \$5 to \$90 for pins, and \$40 to \$60 for necklaces.

Like the celebrities who adorn them, the bottle caps are carefully chosen, since some don't flatten evenly. Rubel prefers those from Anchor Steam, Corona, and Sapporo beers, plus Crystal Geyser and Cherry Coke caps. After pressing them flat, she decorates them with faces cut from magazines, or bits of leather, Florentine paper, postcards, or foreign newspaper.

"I got started in the Haight when I took some pieces to the Haight Street Fair in 1986," Rubel recalls. "I felt like a queen out there. Everybody liked my work, everybody had a comment. And it made a bunch of magazines." A trip to see a friend in Ann Arbor produced orders from two stores there, Forma and Soft Touch placed orders here, and bottle cap jewelry was on its way.

Not that it has been a beeline journey. Born and reared in Chicago, Rubel left her art studies at the University of Iowa after two years. "I didn't want to do things the way they were supposed to be done," she freely admits.

In Boston she joined a pottery cooperative, worked with a group of improvisational dancers, and taught chair-caning at a school for the blind. Then, deciding that her speaking and writing skills needed polishing, she enrolled at Oberlin College in Ohio, where she managed to continue her dancing and found a mime



Artist Remi Rubel (left) gets help in assembling her bottle-cap baubles from Heather Simmons, DeAnna Rhinefrank, and Deborah Kornguth

troupe before graduating with a B.A. in English.

After she arrived in San Francisco in 1984, she became involved in the local theater and performance art scene. She also worked at the Exploratorium, and waited tables at the Acme Cafe in Noe Valley (now La Casona taqueria).

But at the same time, she continued to make jewelry, a craft she'd had fun with for years. "As kids in the sixties, we were

always beading chokers or making candles," she says.

When a friend brought her a flattened bottle cap and asked if she could turn it into an earring, Rubel stuck it onto an earring post. On the metal inside the cap, the manufacturer's rebus design read, "You better watch out." "This gave me the idea of putting other designs and images on bottle caps," she explains.

Two years ago, Rubel expanded her

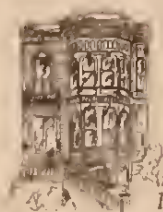
work to include a line of whimsical clocks. But a more recent project has given her even more satisfaction.

Named an artist-in-residence by Norcal (the umbrella company for San Francisco's sanitary waste program), Rubel completed an outdoor mural this summer at the Sanitary Fill Company on Tunnel Street near Candlestick Park. For the project she worked with 45 kids from the Youth in Action program of the San Francisco Conservation Corps to produce a crazy-quilt mosaic made from 4,300 bottle caps.

Recycling was the message, and it went over well. The mural's unveiling rated a front-page color spread in the *San Francisco Examiner* and a feature story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

But what pleases Rubel most is the chance to demonstrate what she has maintained and practiced for so long: "Things aren't meant to be thrown away and forgotten. Anything can be transformed into something usable." □

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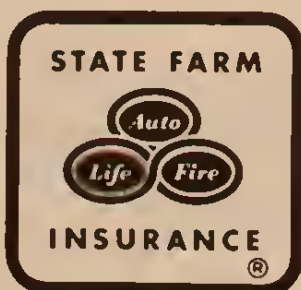
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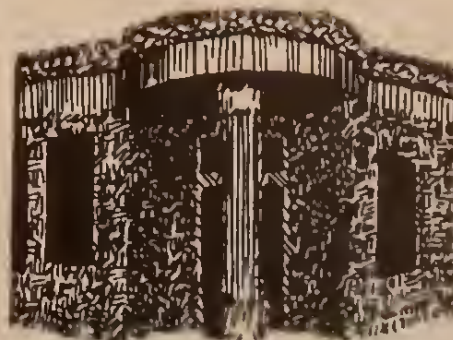
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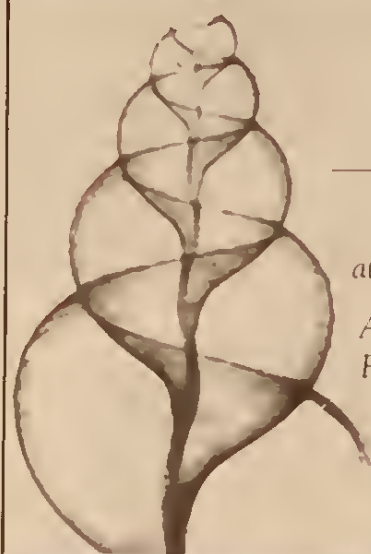
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Under the sponsorship of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, City Guides will be conducting a special series of free neighborhood walks this month.

During October, the program expands from its regular 15 monthly walks to more than 30, exploring our own Noe Valley, Glen Park, Eureka Valley, and Mission District strolling grounds, in addition to such well-known areas as Chinatown and Russian Hill.

The Noe Valley tour, "Noe Valley by Flashlight," will be led by architectural historian Judith Lynch on Oct. 25, beginning at 8 p.m. in front of the Noe Valley Library, at 451 Jersey St. Lynch, who created her first Noe Valley walk in 1975, has been conducting the evening flash-lit walks since 1985.

"At night it's more fun," she says, "because I talk about the buildings, and I have a friend with an enormous flashlight who shines it on the various details while I'm talking."

In addition to looking at Victorian architecture, she says, participants also "fondle fire hydrants and pore over bits of sidewalk history, including meter boxes, sewer vents, and manhole covers. We also conjure up the ghosts of Victorian carpenters, contractors, architects, and builders who built Noe Valley."

The Noe Valley walk requires no reservations, lasts about an hour and a half, and covers 10 blocks.

Over in the Mission District, pedestrians will have a choice of four different walks. Every Saturday in October, the colorful "Mission Murals" walk will be offered at 1 p.m., beginning behind Flint Elementary School, at Precita and Harrison streets. And on Oct. 19 only, there'll be an "Inner Mission Victorians" walk, starting at the Mission Library, 24th and Bartlett streets, at 10 a.m. This tour will explore the architecture and history of the city's first streetcar neighborhood.

On Oct. 26, at 2 p.m., beginning at the northeast corner of Liberty and Do-

## SHORT TAKES

lores, a Liberty Hill walking tour will focus on an intact Victorian neighborhood with gardens dating back to the 1870s and 1880s. And on two Sundays, Oct. 6 (10 a.m.) and Oct. 27 (1 p.m.), Mission lovers can meet at the Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St., to take a stroll through the old "Mission Dolores Village."

Another walk, the "Eureka Valley" walk, also starts at the Eureka Library, on Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. Be prepared to climb stairs on this one.

If you don't have mental shin splints yet, mark Sundays, Oct. 6 and 27, at 10 a.m., on your walking calendars, too. These are the dates for the "Glen Park Walk," where you'll visit the neighborhood once deemed "San Francisco's Little Switzerland." The Glen Park tour starts at 653 Chenery, near Diamond, in front of the Glen Park Library.

For information on these and other walking tours, call 557-4266, or pick up a printed guide at your local library.

### Fiendish Halloween Fun

Brace yourself for a dose of blood-chilling terror this month, as Noe Valley's 11th annual Halloween Haunted House opens for horror on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 31. The "Scare House" will be in session from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, located at the corner of Day and Sanchez streets.

Admission to the frightful festivities is \$2 for monsters 13 years and over, and \$1 for those 12 and under. According to its masterminds—the S.F. Recreation and Park Department and Scare House Productions—the Scare House is Noe Valley's largest fun and safe Halloween event, and is recommended for ghosts and ghouls 7 years of age and older.

Volunteers are needed and appreci-



*Freddy Krueger may be dead, but creatures like this will come to life at the annual Halloween "Scare House" at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN BLACK.

ated, so if you're in the mood to don a disguise, or just want to lend a bony hand hanging up a few cobwebs, give Kevin Black a call at 695-5011.

### Mayoral Hopefuls Square Off

Candidates for mayor of San Francisco will debate each other and field questions from the public on Thursday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m., at James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St.

Mayor Art Agnos and three of his challengers—Richard Hongisto, Frank Jordan, and Angela Alioto—are scheduled to participate. Supervisor Tom Hsieh, at press time, had not yet confirmed he would attend, due to scheduling problems.

The candidates' debate will be emceed

by Kevin Purselove, moderator for KQED-FM's public affairs radio program "Forum." The event is being sponsored by seven local organizations: Upper Noe Neighbors, East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, Glen Park Association, Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association, Diamond Heights Village Association, Fair Oaks Neighborhood Association, and Friends of Noe Valley.

"We're really excited about this event," says Friends of Noe Valley member Mary Ann Malinak. "It's really positive for the community to have all of us working on this together."

The debate will follow a spaghetti dinner to benefit James Lick School. The \$3 meal, sponsored by Superior Coffee, will begin at 6 p.m., and tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at the school office (695-5675).

### Getting the Food Out

In a mere two hours, a driver for Project Open Hand can deliver hot meals and groceries to 20 people with AIDS. So if you'd like to do a lot of good deeds in a small amount of time, here's your chance.

Project Open Hand, a non-profit agency, is experiencing a shortfall of volunteer drivers to serve the 1,000 to 1,200 men, women, and children it feeds every day in San Francisco and Alameda counties. "We're in desperate need of drivers," said Hilda Jones, director of volunteer services. "We need new people to come in and help us get our meals out."

Over 160 of Project Open Hand's clients live in or near Noe Valley, and drivers are needed seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Volunteer orientation meetings are held Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Project Open Hand, 2720 17th St., between Bryant and Florida. No appointment is necessary to attend the orientation, which includes a tour of the Open Hand facility.

For more information, call 255-2529.

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## Apartment Recycling

Last month the San Francisco Recycling Program extended its services to Noe Valley apartment dwellers in buildings of six units or more.

Apartment complexes received two large communal containers, one blue and one gray, that were placed in the garbage or parking areas of the buildings. The blue containers are for glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, and plastic soda bottles (CA redemption value only). No plastic bags, milk containers, or water jugs are accepted. The gray containers are for newspapers, magazines, junk mail, phone books, and scrap paper. Residents should have received notices announcing the beginning of the program and instructing them on exactly how and what to recycle.

"We are excited to bring apartment recycling services to Noe Valley," said program manager Amy Perlmutter. "This system is designed for the convenience of the residents."

The apartment recycling program started in the southern part of the city in the fall of 1989, and has been steadily working its way northward. With Noe Valley now totally incorporated into the city's recycling consciousness, the program is 75 percent complete, serving 4,500 apartment buildings, with approximately 65,000 units.

"We try as much as we can to service all apartment buildings," noted Tim Brownell, apartment recycling manager for Sunset Scavenger. "But we do encounter situations where there is no room in the garbage area for these large containers. In this case... we will work with building managers in any way possible to bring recycling to residents who want the service."

Residents who would like to disseminate recycling information to their neighbors are encouraged to contact Tim Brownell or Scott Morey, at 330-2872.

## SHORT TAKES



**Multiculturalism on Parade:** Students from Alvarado Elementary celebrated the Festival de los Pueblos Sept. 20 by marching down 24th Street and waving school-made flags proclaiming their diverse backgrounds. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

### Homophobic Films

When lesbian and gay men hit the streets in response to negative imagery in Hollywood films, just what are they protesting? Daniel Mangin, who teaches a popular course in gay film at City College, answers this question and more with *Psycho Killers and Twisted Sisters*, a clip and commentary presentation on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 7 and 9:30 p.m., at the Castro Theater, 429 Castro St.

The film takes a look at a few of mainstream cinema's most enduring stereotypes, including the gay man as psycho-

pathic killer, and the lesbian as "predator." Clips from American comedies and dramas from 1930 to 1991 predominate, but the presentation includes scenes from Chinese, German, Italian, French, and British films as well.

Tickets to *Psycho Killers and Twisted Sisters* are \$6; seniors and children, \$3. For more information, call the Castro Theater, 621-6120.

### Ecology Forums

"Healing the Earth" is the name of an environmental lecture series to be held

on three Wednesday evenings this month at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The program, organized by the church's Ecology Committee, will feature a lecture on Green politics and ideology by Green Party representative Mark Haven on Oct. 2; a talk on saving the tropical rain forests led by Scott Lewis, of the Rainforest Action Network, on Oct. 16; and a Greenpeace presentation on ecology, toxics, nuclear disarmament, and the atmospheric energy campaign on Oct. 30.

Douglas Martin, who founded the Ministry's year-old ecology group, notes that "in Biblical studies, [the word] dominion did not mean to dominate—it meant caring and tilling. And this is the focus of the series."

The \$3 lectures will be held in the Ministry's second-floor sanctuary, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For further information, call 282-2317.

### Schools Send Out S.O.S.

Few will be surprised to learn that the San Francisco School Volunteers are in dire need of helpers for all grade levels (K-12).

"San Francisco's schools are facing enormous challenges this year—drastically reduced budgets, more students who need special help, and fewer teachers with more to do than ever," says volunteer director Sandra Treacy.

Volunteers are trained in everything from storytelling and supervising play areas in kindergarten, to tutoring in math, English, reading, and art in middle and high schools. After training, they are assigned to schools, where they work two to three hours a week.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact Leanne Nehenzahl or Darrell Gwynn, at 274-0257.

Jane Underwood and Phil Prestianni contributed to this month's Short Takes.

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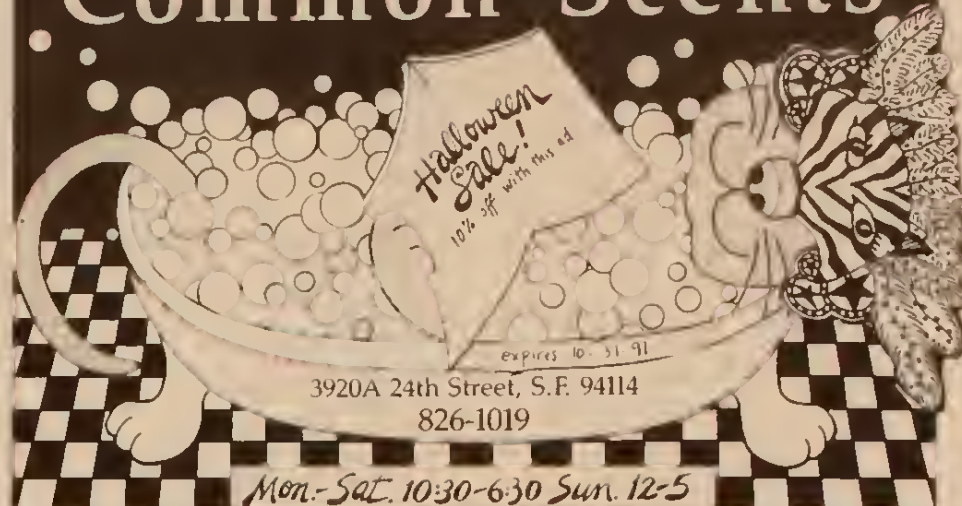


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# Belly Dancing An Exercise For Every Body

By Barbara Austen

Exotic and sensual, belly dancing may be one of the best kept secrets to exercise and relaxation in Noe Valley. Workout enthusiasts usually stick to aerobics or jogging, and most Americans equate belly dancers with scantily clad women who jiggle and shake purely for the enjoyment of men.

But in Carolina Nericcio's traditional Middle Eastern belly dance classes at the Noe Valley Ministry, which she has been teaching for five years, this notion couldn't be further from the truth. Students in Nericcio's classes are aiming to become comfortable with their bodies, while respecting themselves and their fellow dancers.

Unlike those exercise instructors who urge participants to "burn that fat" or "take off those thunder-thighs and jelly-roll hips," Nericcio encourages dancers to celebrate their own beauty rather than aspire to an image dictated by society.

"Women can be themselves with confidence," explains 30-year-old Nericcio, who began belly dancing at the age of 14 and founded the six-member Fat Chance Belly Dance troupe in 1988. And since "belly dancing is a spontaneous interpretation, where each dancer interprets the music on the spot in her or his unique way," she adds, there's no "correct" body type.

But isn't it common for belly dancers to develop fat stomachs? "That is absolutely not true!" declares Nericcio, whose own flat stomach offers convincing proof. Belly dance does emphasize the sensuality of the female form, she says, but many men belly dance too. In fact, men have belly danced for centuries in temples in the Middle East.

"Men are good belly dancers because their egos are usually more secure—they are okay with their bodies, because, after all, it is a man's world," says Nericcio, who would eventually like to see a few male dancers join her troupe.

"I've always been interested in belly dancing," says class member Jeff Turnbow, who belly dances to the Grateful Dead in his spare time. "You can really feel the energy, and it's very grounding. I'm a software engineer, and belly dancing really balances me."

The Ministry's intermediate Thursday night class begins with students shedding their street clothes and changing into loose pantaloons, covered by full, flowing skirts designed to billow out during spins and turns. These costumes make dancers appear larger, which is one of the goals of belly dance, Nericcio says. The pantaloons go with the traditional V-necked Indian tops, called "cholis," which leave backs and stomachs uncov-



Carolina Nericcio conducts her belly dance classes at the Noe Valley Ministry in authentic Middle Eastern style—which means she encourages men as well as women to give it a whirl. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

ered, unlike those of dancers in the Middle East, where baring one's midriff can be illegal.

The dancers, who laugh and talk while fishing out bangles and scarves from wicker baskets, complete their ensembles with coin necklaces and other jewelry used to emphasize individual dance movements. Some don flowing veils for the faster dances. In addition, those students who are members of Fat Chance Belly Dance are already adorned with tattoos (usually on their backs), of animals and plants in striking shades of green, blue, and red.

As the class gets started, students line up, stretching everything from neck to toe muscles. Because of its spontaneity, belly dance "is not always considered a true dance form," notes Nericcio. Yet many of the warm-up stretches and pliés make the dancers look like disciplined classical ballerinas.

Eventually, the dozen or so students in the class form pairs to assist each other with the more difficult stretches. Slowly they begin to dance, their stomachs occasionally quivering in time with the fluttering drumbeats of the music being played in the background.

Since belly dancing emphasizes good posture, some students balance scabbards or brass pots on their heads. "You

need to stretch the spine so things can have room to move," explains Nericcio. "You can really hurt yourself with bad posture."

Students concentrate on their movements, and often smile broadly at themselves and their fellow dancers in the mirror. Egos and judgments, notes Nericcio, are left outside the door the minute the dancers enter the room.

As the dancing becomes more complicated and perspiration glistens on everyone's forehead, a spirituality pervades the candlelit room. The dancers' gyrating movements remind one of grass swaying in the wind, or ocean waves gently rolling to shore.

Nericcio says she feels that the spirituality of belly dancing stems from its ancient tribal nature—that the energy of the group lifts the dancers up.

"It's a completely natural dance," she says. "The body wants to do it. You let go of everything and feel safe—you trust the motion of the group, so your mind can rest."

Toward the end of the class, as the music takes on a faster rhythm, dancers keep time for each other by using finger cymbals and clapping their hands. As they spin, veils billowing and flowing, the dance builds to a pulsating kaleidoscope of color and movement.

The dancers are animated and high when they spin to a stop. "I feel hot and sweaty and happy," says Theresa Dutton, who performs with Fat Chance. "If I come in a bad mood, I'm in a good mood when I walk out."

"I feel really energized and powerful," adds Jill Parker, also a member of the troupe.

The students say that people from Middle Eastern countries who have seen Fat Chance Belly Dance perform often tell Nericcio that her style is the closest they've seen to that of dancers in their native land. And although some of the dancers in her class have experimented with other forms of belly dance, they gravitate back to Nericcio's traditional style. "Carolina's dancing is more tribal and earthy," explains Parker.

So if you're looking for a fun workout with a sensual, spiritual bent, check out Nericcio's Thursday night intermediate class at the Ministry. (Or there's a Wednesday evening class for beginners at the Betty May Studio on Guerrero Street.) Tattoos are optional. For more information, call 585-0298. □



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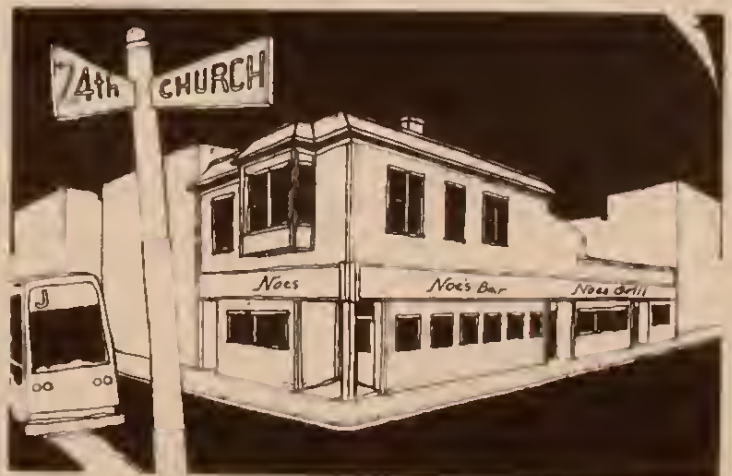
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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

## A Fruitful Back Yard

**W**hen we moved into our brown-shingled house on 21st Street 35 years ago, there were three productive fruit trees growing in our yard, which is graced with a southern exposure.

For a while we had a peach tree near the deck that produced beautiful pink blossoms and large juicy fruit, but its life span was short, and in only five years it died. Then there was the largest tree, which yielded lush apricots. The fruit had a sweetness that, for us, has never been surpassed.

This tree was once visited by a huge swarm of buzzing bees, as large as a prize-winning watermelon. Since we did not wish to share our garden with stinging things, our son Jan, who was a teenager at the time, took on the task of evicting them.

Armed with a garden hose, he cautiously approached the agitated mass that was clustered around the queen, and gave the bees a blast of cold water. As they plummeted to the ground, he dropped the hose and sped to the house with a trail of bees in hot pursuit. But the bees that had fallen to the ground flew back to their queen. When it was safe enough, Jan returned to give them another water treatment, then dashed once more to the back door. Again and again he doused them in this manner until they completely disappeared. Because of his sprinting ability, Jan didn't get stung, and we regained our garden.

A few years after the bees, we noticed that a portion of the apricot tree's lower trunk was riddled with tunnels and sawdust. And we soon discovered, in one of its gaps, a formidable little creature standing guard—a brown soldier termite, with a large head and mandibles that looked like horns ready to attack any intruder.

After a decade, the beautiful orange and red apricot tree fell over, no match for those voracious termites.

Of the three original trees, only one is still with us—the plum tree. It also suffered a bug-infested trunk, but it wisely sent out shoots that matured into young trees before it expired.

Every spring, this triple-trunked tree is covered with delicate white blossoms that have been the inspiration for many still-life drawings and watercolor paintings. One spring, the most interesting branch to paint was hanging over the back fence, above the neighbor's yard. I was reaching out to clip it, stretching with all of my might, when a hand rose up from the other side of the fence, and silently but gently guided the limb to within my reach.

Only recently did I become acquainted enough with our neighbor to ask if this had been his helping hand, so many years ago. And he remembered that it was.

**I**n even earlier days, there were also some hands that helped themselves instead of me. In the summer, as the fruit ripened, our green hill was plagued with young plum-pilferers from the Mission District below. One sunny day as I surveyed our crop, I was surprised to see a hand rising over the fence, reaching for our plums. Without thinking, I grasped the wrist and held it for a minute, then relented and let go. I listened with amusement to the sound of scampering feet racing down the slope.

That happened when the tree and its yield were smaller, but now both are extremely large, and I often wish those little fruit thieves would return. Friends and relatives are willing to take some of the plums, but there is always a surplus.

This variety of plum is the deep-purple *Prunus Domestica*, which has firm flesh that can be dried, and which is also good for many other purposes—like preserving. It makes excellent red jelly that doesn't require the addition of pectin to make it gel, only sugar. And one year, the bumper crop even induced me to invest in supplies to brew plum wine. (It turned out to be so sweet, however, that the only one who would drink it was the vintner.)

Last year, one branch loaded with fruit thrust itself out of reach, over our fence and far above our next-door neighbor's yard. The neighbor, Wendy, and I devised a simple method for claiming those plums. I shook the branch on our side of the fence, while she held and manipulated a cardboard box on her side, catching the plums as they fell. This was quick and easy, but to get the rest of the plums, I still had to climb up the tree with a plastic bucket and pick them individually. (This year, because of the cold summer, the fruit ripened slowly, and I experienced the luxury of an unhurried, leisurely plum-picking season.)

We picked the last of the plums in August, and in September, the leaves began changing color, from deep green to bright yellow to rusty brown, and falling to the ground, to nourish the tree in years to come.

There is nothing in our garden that requires so little tending as our plum tree. It survives droughts and freezes, yet gives abundantly. And although I'm getting plum tired of climbing it, that tree has earned my affection and admiration. It has even forced me to learn to make a passable jar of jelly—and it only took 30 years! □

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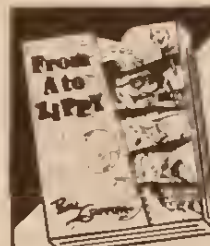
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INTRODUCTION BY R. CRUMB

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## All the Noes Fit to Print

**NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH (NEWS):** Most of the noise of the neighborhood these days is being created by jackhammers at 7:30 a.m., as PG&E continues its assault on the gas lines below our streets. It looks like this job is going to extend well into 1992.

"Quiet, please!" draws a hush from the crowd currently watching the filming of *Sister Act* in front of St. Paul's on Church Street (see story, page 1). But the question is, will the jackhammers make the soundtrack of the movie?

Evidently not, says Disney location manager George Herthel, who has already contacted PG&E to coordinate sound effects.

By the way, Herthel considers St. Paul's "the best church I've seen west of the Mississippi" for movies involving nuns cleaning up ghettos. He notes that another reason Disney chose Noe Valley as the site for its latest blockbuster is that "the studio prefers western locations, even though the script for this film was originally written for Atlantic City and New York City."

In other noise, the Courtyard Cafe's proposal to hold comedy nights at the restaurant came up for a raucous debate at the Friends of Noe Valley general membership meeting Sept. 15. Nevertheless, in their vote on the issue, the group produced only one "yea" and about 25 "no ways."

It may be news to the "no comedy in my back yard" noisemakers on Jersey Street that the old Acme Cafe has been reincarnated as La Casona taqueria, and the outdoor back deck is open for quietly sitting and consuming Mexican cuisine. Is it Indian Summer yet?

The big buzz on 24th Street is: what's going to happen to "Gary the Panhandler"? Everybody's got an opinion, and

## and now **RUMORS** behind for the **BY MAZOOK** the news

some are tracking his court appearances to protest releasing him from custody. Sad story, folks.

☎ ☎ ☎

**A TASTE OF MONEY:** Taste of Honey fans were surprised to see their favorite sugar-free bakery "reopened" this summer as a muffin, newspaper, and Mr. Coffee vendor.

You may recall that almost two years ago, the popular pastry and "smoothie" shop moved from its longtime location at 24th and Diamond to Church Street (near 27th). Then about a year ago, it was sold to Tony Martinez, who kept the doors shut for months. "I bought the place and then had some personal problems and ran out of money," he explains.

Once Martinez reopened, he found he could only afford to offer java, muffins, and copies of the *New York Times*, the *Chronicle*, and the *Irish Echo*. "I need a silent partner or an investor so I can buy all the inventory, stock, and supplies that I need to get this thing going," he pleads. Good luck.

In other ins and outs, Underneath It All, Noe Valley's answer to Frederick's of Hollywood, is sadly having a "going out of business" sale. And Chicago Title closed its 24th Street branch and moved everything to the firm's Market Street office over the hill in Eureka Valley.

Classy Sweats has opened another outlet (in the spot just vacated by Just for Fun) that will sell classier sweats, according to store manager John Arden. Says Arden, "It will be upscale sweats, with a broader line of women's clothing and exercise wear."

☎ ☎ ☎

A SIGN OF THE TIMES: The Real Food

Company appears to be cracking down on pilferers in its refrigerated Bulk Room at the back of the store. Management has put up a new "No Snacking" sign right below the old "No Munching" warning.

Meanwhile, across the street at Bell Market, the malted milkballs in the bulk-candy buckets never seem to be in stock anymore. Now I ask you, is this a mere coincidence?

Looking for a sign of the times is Noe Valley's oldest neighborhood association (since 1904), the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club.

"We're looking for a logo," says East & West President Paul Kantus, "for the heading on our newsletter, for placing on the DPW litter boxes we plan to donate to our neighborhood, and for the high-visibility vests we are getting for our block sweepers and litter picker-uppers." Those who have designs on this job should send them to Paul at 492 Douglass St., Noe Valley, 94114.

Friends of Noe Valley showed signs of new energy at its annual election of officers last month. After at least a year with no president, the group finally elected one: Steve Roseman. Other new officers include Vice President Rick Hauptman and Secretary Laure Moon, who just moved here from Kansas City. The venerable Barbara Holman will stay on as treasurer.

☎ ☎ ☎

**FOOD FRONT:** A new restaurant, calling itself the 24th Street Bistro, will soon be serving lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch in the nicely renovated 24th Street slot (near Castro) last occupied by Little Italy Too (more than three years ago).

Bistro chef Joel Theriault promises a

French-American cuisine in cozy surroundings seven days a week.

According to Theriault, the final delays in opening the eatery were caused by the Persian Gulf War. The owner, Mohammed Ilham Arif, is a Saudi-Arabian businessman who had to rush back there during the crisis, putting his downtown Noe Valley venture on hold for several months.

Up 24th Street, the popular seafood restaurant La Roca should also be reopening soon, after abruptly closing this spring. A month ago, the sign in the window read, "Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are forced to close our doors." But rumor is that all parties now have things back in control. Time will tell.

☎ ☎ ☎

**NOE COURTS HOOPSTERS** feel a little left out after local residents and businesses worked together to install a new play structure at the 24th and Douglass park, but neglected to fix up the basketball courts.

Dunker Damien Jovel claims that potholed and cracked pavement on the court have led to injuries to many of the regulars, and they've now fanned out to other basketball courts.

Not going to court are the key players in this spring's zoning snafu at Video Wave on Castro near Jersey. You will recall that the videorama was facing eviction because nitpickers at City Hall had insisted its storefront was parked in a residential zone. Now, owner Alexander Gardener says he's obtained over 1,000 signatures in support of his application to rezone the premises, and he's gotten further options on his lease from the landlord.

"Hopefully, we will be here until at least 1999," he says with optimism. The irony of this situation is that the space he is trying to "rezone" has obviously been

Continued on Page 33

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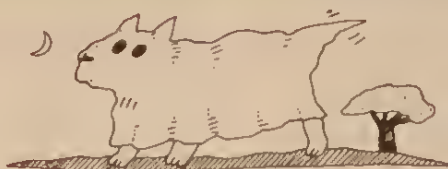
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Continued from Page 31

a storefront since the structure was built over 100 years ago.

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**TOP OF THE POPS:** It looks like local color tops the Noe Valley charts.

Streetlight Records reports that the San Francisco headbangers Metallica are a smash seller. Over at Aquarius Records, the chartbusters are the local groups American Music Club and Sister Double Happiness (one sister lives on 24th Street).

Noe Valley guitarist Alex De Grassi will soon be heading for a concert tour in Italy. Also leaving the Valley for a gig at Sweet Basil's in the Big Apple is drummer Eddie Marshall, who will be playing

jazz with Toshiko Akiyoshi.

Noe Valley rockers The Derins will take part in a benefit for Project Open Hand on Oct. 13 at the Portico (246 McAllister).

Meanwhile, Noe Valley author Jim Paul has a book out that is very much in demand at Cover to Cover. It is a series of essays titled, *Catapult—Harry and I Build a Siege Weapon*, and that's what it's about—building a catapult. Doesn't sound like something Disney will make into a movie, folks.

The other bestseller at Cover to Cover to *Chinese Medicine*, by locals Harriet Beinfeld and Elrem Korngold.

☎ ☎ ☎

**NOE VALLEY LOST** Alyce King last month to her battle with cancer. Most of you who knew her probably first met Alyce when she opened up your Bank of America account at the 24th and Castro branch, where she worked for many years. We will all remember her sense of humor, thoughtfulness, and generosity, and that beautiful warm smile.

I'd also like to bid a fond farewell to Fred Methner, Noe Valley's unofficial mayor and a man firmly dedicated to the

safety, cleanliness, and well-being of the community (see story, page 1).

Fred, who spent his retirement years stamping out graffiti and churning out folksy newsletters for his East & West of Castro Club, never minded me hugging him for details on neighborhood developments. He always either had news, or was news himself. He would even type up a miniature press release and deliver it to my door.

But Fred was actually a very shy man. He didn't like to have his picture taken. He even turned down an invitation several years ago to appear on the *Johnny Carson Show*, despite repeated requests from the producers. When I asked him why, he replied, "I don't want people to make a fuss over me—and besides, I've got too much to do here. Have you seen the Muni stop over on Chattanooga?"

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no memorial service. But local neighborhood groups are conferring about how to create an appropriate memorial to Fred in the neighborhood he loved so much. I think Fred might suggest starting with a broom and a paintbrush.

That's all, you all. □

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## P O E M

### TEARS OF THE WIND

By Kacy Hornor

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Grass swaying in the wind,  
Releasing drops of water  
falling in the mud  
spreading underground.  
Black drooping clouds  
waiting to burst.  
Crash tears of the wind.

*Kacy Hornor is 6½ years old and lives  
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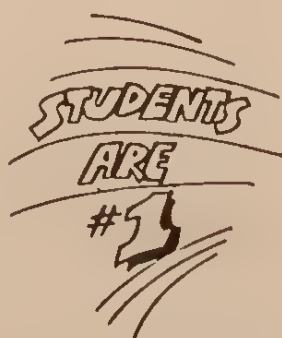


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# MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

## Lauren Ruth Kolm

Last month, 24th Street residents Steve and Risa Kolm gave an exclusive, three-way telephone interview. Over the background sounds of clanking silverware and squeaky toys, they filled me in on the events surrounding the birth of their daughter, Lauren Ruth Kolm, who became a San Francisco native on April 28, 1991, at 4:13 a.m.

Lauren, at 5 pounds, 2 ounces, arrived on the scene a month early, so she was "a planned yet unplanned baby," says Risa, 33. And because neither Risa nor her husband Steve, 32, had had any experience with little babies, "particularly small ones," notes Risa, "...the first month is just a blur."

"The first month was definitely more work than I anticipated," adds Steve, who works as an architect when not on diaper duty. "But after that, it all fell into the expected pattern. . . . And Lauren's a perfectly wonderful, normal, healthy, smiling, rolling-over baby now."

Risa, who is taking several months off



Steve and Risa Kolm welcomed daughter Lauren Ruth into the world on April 28, 1991.

PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

from her job as an attorney for the state to be a full-time mom, mentions that her daughter is also "very pretty. She wasn't all smooshed, because she came out feet first."

His little girl's looks, expounds Steve, are a riveting combination of haldness (with a hint of blondish hair), "baby" blue eyes, and a face that is "all checks."

And her personality, says Mom, is "feisty. Definitely feisty! She lets her needs be known."

A "very squirmy" wiggler, Lauren was already rolling over from her stomach to her back at 4½ months. Even her smiles, notes Dad, are full of action. "We call them full-body smiles," he explains. "The mouth opens wide, and the

arms and legs kick all over the place."

Not counting Mom and Dad, Lauren is most in love with her two mobiles, "which she just goes frantically happy with," says Steve. "One is dinosaurs in primary colors. The other is your classic black and white shapes."

Speaking of being in love, the Kolms just celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary last month. It all started eight years ago, when they met at a New Year's party, and Steve fell in love at first sight.

"Because he thought I was Italian!" laughs Risa. "I'm a New York Jew, but he thought I was, what, Steve, this Florentine woman?"

"I just thought she was, uh, a perfect catch," Steve replies. "No, that's not the right word. She was the most beautiful, intelligent woman I'd ever seen. And you can put that in quotes."

Don't worry, we've got the whole interview on tape. □

**MORE MOUTHS TO FEED** wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence or you just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait.

P.S. We apologize if it takes us a few months to get back to you. The stork was working overtime in Noe Valley this summer, and even approached a *Voice* editor and his wife in mid-August. Help! □

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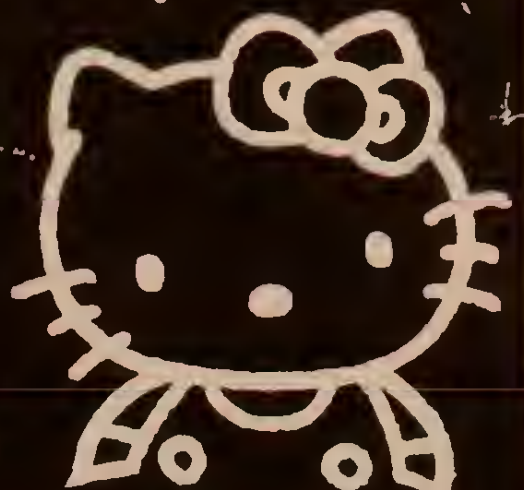
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Librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small are anxious to get your assessment of new arrivals at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., so here are some of the highlights. You can check out the books up close and personal on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. For reservations, call 695-5095.

#### Adult Fiction

*African Visas*, by Maria Thomas, is a collection of six short stories and a novella depicting the everyday life of Africa as experienced by non-Africans. Set on Florida's Gold Coast, *Double Down* is a crime novel by Tom Kakonis featuring an assortment of multi-millionaires, two-bit hustlers, and cheap crooks. *Perfect Together* is Nora Johnson's humorous look at a "yuppie" marriage that begins to disintegrate when the wife can't conceive. Maxine Chernoff's *Plain Grief* is a moving contemporary novel about the failure of a marriage, and its impact on a mother and daughter. In *Red Death*, by mystery writer Walter Mosley, detective hero Easy Rawlins faces a confrontation with a racist IRS agent in 1950s Los Angeles.



## MORE Books to Read

#### Adult Non-Fiction

*The American Heart Association Cookbook*, now in its fifth revised edition, contains more than 600 quick-and-easy recipes that are healthy for the heart. Bern Kreissman's *California: An Environmental Atlas and Guide* is full of maps, statistics, and history, covering all facets of the state's environment. *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham* is a frank and haunting biography of the famous choreographer and dancer, written by her close friend Agnes de Mille. In *The Private War of Mrs. Packard*, writer Barbara Sapiensley tells the dramatic story of a woman living in the 1800s, whose husband committed her to a mental institution because of her feminist beliefs.

#### Children's Fiction

In *Pig Pig Gets a Job*, by David McPhail, the main character experiences the joy of earning his own spending money. (Ages 4-6) Faith Ringgold has converted one of her story quilts into a book, *Tar Beach*, in which she describes a fantasy flight above her Harlem neighborhood. (Ages 6 and up) In Patricia Wrede's *Dealing with Dragons*, Princess Cimorene, bored with her life at court, runs away to create a more interesting life. (Ages 9 and up) Max travels through time to rescue friends in *Strange Attractors*, by William Sleator. (Ages 10 and up)

#### Children's Non-Fiction

Once again, Ms. Frizzle takes her class on an exciting and educational field trip in *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System*, by Joanna Cole. (Ages 6-9) In *Urban Roosts*, Barbara Bash depicts the many ways that birds adapt to living in cities such as San Francisco. (Ages 6-9) Cynthia Rylant provides a nostalgic and poetic look at a group of people, their lifestyle, and their way of moving through the seasons in *Appalachia: the Voices of Sleeping Birds*. (Ages 8 and up) *American Women: Their Lives in Their Own Words*, compiled by Doreen Rappaport, provides an eye-opening survey of American history as it was experienced by women. (Ages 10 and up)



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The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps.

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The November 1991 issue of the *Voice* will appear Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1991. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*—so that we receive it by Oct. 15. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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# CALENDAR

**OCT. 1:** The Friends of Noe Valley PLANNING COMMITTEE meets at 7:30 pm. 199 Chattanooga St. Call John Stalp if you'd like to attend, 824-7234

**OCT. 1, 8, 22 & 29:** The Noe Valley Library offers a preschool STORY TIME for children 3-5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

**OCT. 1-11:** Back to the Picture Gallery continues its exhibit of OIL PAINTINGS and works on paper by artist Abraham Elterman. 934 Valencia St. 826-2321

**OCT. 1-NOV. 30:** The Noe Valley Library will display photos and other memorabilia relating to two San Francisco EARTHQUAKES, 1906 and 1989, courtesy of the San Francisco History Association. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 2:** The residents' group Inner Mission Neighbors sponsors a CANDIDATES' NIGHT, featuring guest appearances by Frank Jordan, Richard Hongisto, and Angela Alioto. 6:30 pm. Hawthorne Elementary School, 825 Shotwell St. 824-5196.

**OCT. 2-30:** Wednesday LAPSITS for babies and toddlers, with their parents, continue at the Noe Valley Library. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 2, 16 & 30:** The Noe Valley Ministry's ECOLOGY COMMITTEE presents three public forums, featuring speakers from the Green Party (Oct. 2), the Rainforest Action Network (Oct. 16), and Greenpeace (Oct. 30). 7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call Douglas Martin at 821-3300 for information.

**OCT. 2-30:** The Metronome Ballroom offers SALSA lessons and dancing every Wednesday night. 8:45 pm. 1830 17th St. 252-9000.

**OCT. 3-31:** Learn lively jigs and reels at SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING classes held Thursdays at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372



Connie Champagne, who recorded in state-of-the-art 3-D for Heyday Records, brings her neo-cabaret to the Noe Valley Music Series Oct. 19.

**OCT. 3-20:** Nina Wise's solo PERFORMANCE, "While Trash," explores the conflicts between professional ambition and ecological concerns. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. The Marsh at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia St. 641-0235

**OCT. 5:** District Health Center No. 1 sponsors a Breast Health Day, featuring low-cost MAMMOGRAMS and nutritional information. 3850 17th St. Call 554-9750 to make an appointment

**OCT. 5:** The S.F. Area Pro-Choice Coalition stages a MARCH AND RALLY in support of reproductive rights. Assemble at the foot of Market Street (Justin Herman Plaza) at 11 am; march to Civic Center, noon. 255-1989.

**OCT. 5:** The Noe Valley Ministry's annual FLEA MARKET and bake sale offers secondhand treasures from 10 am to 4 pm. (Drop off donations Oct. 4.) 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**OCT. 5:** Takeshi Nakayoshi leads a MONOPRINTING workshop for all ages. 1 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**OCT. 5:** The ROVA Saxophone Quartet promises an evening of innovative music, in their last S.F. performance this year. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**OCT. 5:** Kairos House offers an all-day WORKSHOP, "Caregiving The Final Stage," for people caring for the terminally ill. 10 am-4 pm. Ralph K. Davies Medical Center, Castro & Duboce. Call 861-0877 to register.

**OCT. 5-25:** Gallery Sanchez's "Autumn Annual" ART SHOW features a cross section of Noe Valley creativity. Reception: Oct. 6, 11:30 am-2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**OCT. 5-26:** Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center conducts regular Saturday MURAL WALKS in the Mission District. 1:30 pm. Meet at 348 Precita Ave. 285-2287

**OCT. 6:** The Friends of the Public Library sponsors a NEIGHBORHOOD WALK in Glen Park, the city's first "suburb." 10 am. Meet at 653 Chenery St. 557-4266.

**OCT. 6:** St. Paul's Church holds a CANDLELIGHT MASS, followed by a reception and discussion, for single adults. 5 pm. 221 Valley St. 648-7538.

**OCT. 6:** A workshop focusing on Lebanese and vegetarian cuisine will launch Anastasia's Fall COOKING CLASSES. 2:30-5:30 pm, with dinner following. 3718 24th St. 826-5886.

**OCT. 9-27:** Theatre Rhinoceros presents the West Coast premiere of *Belle Reprieve*, a gender-bending musical revue inspired by *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm; Oct. 20, 3 pm matinee. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 861-5079.

**OCT. 10:** Friends of Noe Valley holds its monthly STEERING COMMITTEE meeting. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 826-2304.

**OCT. 11:** Cine Accion presents the PERUVIAN FILM *Juliana*, to benefit the new Rezola Hospital in Peru, plus music and refreshments. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**OCT. 11:** The world premiere of Ooris Fish and Phillip R. Ford's FILM *Vegas in Space* is a benefit for the Shanli Project. 8 pm. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. 552-8760.

**OCT. 12:** The Noe Valley Music Series presents the group Out of the Rain, playing music rooted in British and IRISH TRADITIONS. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.



"My Summer Vacation" is Deke Weaver's video of a scary college reunion, to be screened as part of the Film Arts Festival at the Roxie Oct. 30-Nov. 14

**OCT. 13:** The Noe Valley Ministry begins "Cantale," a series of chanting and prayer services. 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

## OCTOBER 1991

**OCT. 13:** The Mission Olores Basilica Choir performs a CONCERT commemorating the 200th anniversary of the old Mission Olores. 7 pm. Mission Olores Basilica, 16th & Dolores. 621-8203.

**OCT. 14:** "Quintessential Christopher Columbus: The Michael Milken of the Mediterranean" is a CABARET celebrating the 500th anniversary of the closing of escrow on the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. 7 pm. New College Theatre, 777 Valencia St. 864-8472

**OCT. 15:** The Noe Valley Library kids' film series features "Drummer Hoff," "Three Little Pigs," and "Hen Hop" for children 3-5 (10 & 11 am), and "Case of the Cosmic Comic," "Silly Giant," and "Dragons and Giants" for the older crowd, starting at 3:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 16:** Louise Renne is one of the speakers at a FORUM on the politics of breast cancer sponsored by the National Women's Political Caucus. 7:30 pm. Well Fargo Building, corner of California and Van Ness. 922-5004

**OCT. 17:** Mainstream cinema's stereotypes of gays and lesbians are examined through FILM CLIPS in *Psycho Killers* and *Twisted Sisters*. 7 & 9:30 pm. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. 621-6120.

**OCT. 17:** On the second anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, more than 50 S.F. restaurants will participate in "Candlelight Again," by serving dinner by candlelight and donating 25% of their proceeds to Catholic Charities. 5:04 pm. Call 554-8941 for a list of participating restaurants.

**OCT. 17:** Friends of Noe Valley, along with several other neighborhood groups, will sponsor a MAYORAL CANDIDATES' FORUM, starting at 7:30 pm. James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St. Call 821-3866 to suggest questions for the candidates.

**OCT. 18:** Noe Valley MOVIES promises an evening of "Poe-lic horror mayhem," with Roger Corman's *The Terror* (1963), and a selection of terrifying trailers and scary short subjects. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 343-3496

**OCT. 19:** In affiliation with the S.F. Library's African-American STORY-TELLING festival, 13-year-old twins Jason and Justin Reed will tell tales for all ages. 1 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**OCT. 19:** Torch songstress Connie Champagne joins Bone Cootes & the Living Wrecks and singer/songwriter Hannah Marcus in an evening of ALTERNATIVE MUSIC at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**OCT. 19:** City Guides' "Inner Mission Victorians" neighborhood WALK emphasizes the Liberty Hill historic district. Meet at 10 am at the Mission Library, 24th & Bartlett. 557-4266.

**OCT. 22:** Good Vibrations hosts a WORKSHOP on the sexuality of women of size. "Yes, Virginia, Fat Women Do Have Great Sex." 7 pm. 1210 Valencia St. 550-7399.

**OCT. 24:** Griel Marcus discusses his new book *Dead Elvis*, a look at the thriving posthumous career of ELVIS PRESLEY. 8 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**OCT. 25:** Architectural historian Judith Lynch leads her popular neighborhood WALK, "Noe Valley by Moonlight (Flashlight)." The tour starts at 8 pm at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 431-7253

**OCT. 25:** The Noe Valley Music Series presents the electric septet KAMIKAZE GROUND CREW. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**OCT. 25 & 26:** "Vivent Les Oiffrences" is a CABARET of senior performers, sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE). Oct. 25, 8 pm; Oct. 26, 2:30 pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 626-7000.

**OCT. 25 & 26:** The MODERN DANCE collective Moving Basis performs new and repertory works by Elaina Marie Ashe, Brooke Byrne, Avilee Goodwin, Tracey Tapscott, and Katie Tetzlaff. 8:30 pm. Third Wave Studio, 3316 24th St. 536-5231.



Tim Baskerville's color photograph "Passageway" is one of "The Nocturnes" on exhibit at Gallery Sanchez starting Oct. 26.

**OCT. 26:** Third Ear and Sugar Bee provide an evening of CAJUN, Tex-Mex, R&B, and "country and eastern" music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**OCT. 26:** The Randall Museum Halloween extravaganza features a Nocturnal Creature Gallery and TUNNEL OF FEAR, plus a costume parade, mask-making workshop, pumpkin carving, and a family scarecrow-building workshop. 11 am-4 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**OCT. 26:** Psychic Horizons sponsors its monthly PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR at the Noe Valley Ministry. 2-4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906.

**OCT. 26:** Bethany Church hosts an all-day CRAFT BAZAAR, featuring Christmas decorations, handmade gifts, plants, baked goods, and white elephants. Clipper & Sanchez

**OCT. 26-NOV. 22:** Noe Valley photographer Tim Baskerville curates an exhibit of NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY, "The Nocturnes," by Steve Harper, Lance Keimig, Wende Lee, and others. Reception: Nov. 3, 11:30 am-2 pm. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm. Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**OCT. 28:** An eight-week class, "Effective Stress Management for Gays and Lesbians," covers relationships, childhood trauma, and loss. 6:30 pm. Everett Middle School, 451 Church St., Room 225. 585-5212

**OCT. 29 & 30:** The Mission Recreation Center creates a HAUNTED HOUSE to celebrate Halloween. 6-9 pm. 2450 Harrison St. 695-5012

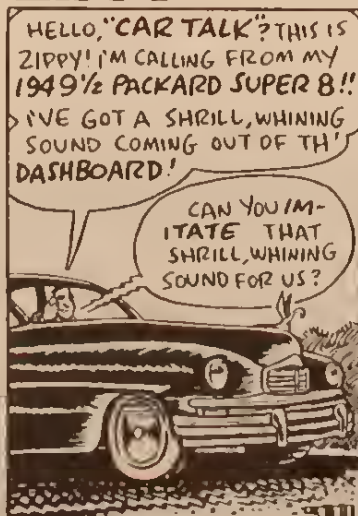
**OCT. 31:** A SCARE HOUSE for kids 7 and older highlights the Upper Noe Recreation Center's Halloween festivities. 6-9 pm. Oay & Sanchez. 695-5011

**OCT. 31:** Wear a costume to the Diamond Senior Center's annual HALLOWEEN DANCE, with music by Walter Traverso. 1-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

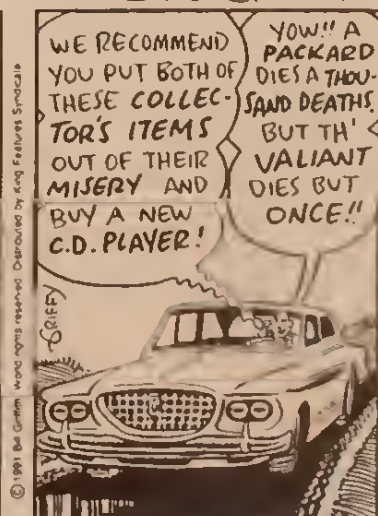
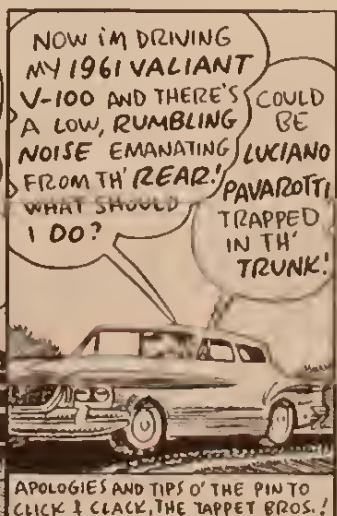
**OCT. 31:** The Mission YMCA's fourth annual Halloween CARNIVAL includes a haunted house, costume contest, games, food, and surprises. 5:30-8:30 pm. 4080 Mission St. 586-6900.

**NOV. 1:** Noe Valley resident Deke Weaver's FILM *My Summer Vacation* headlines the "Oil-Line Life" program at the seventh annual Film Arts Festival. 7 pm. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. Call for complete schedule, 552-8760

### ZIPPY



### "DRIVEN TO DESTRUCTION"



### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The November 1991 issue of the *Voice* will hit the streets Tuesday, Oct. 29, so Halloween events can be included. The deadline for that issue (covering calendar items dated Oct. 29-Dec. 2, 1991) is Oct. 15.